

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 420

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**Version:** As introduced

**Authors:** Ward and others

**Subject:** Statewide health and physical education requirements

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### Overview

Makes one-half credit in health and physical education a requirement for graduation for students entering the ninth grade in the 2008-2009 school year and later. Requires the Education Department to post school wellness policies on the department web site. Establishes a two-year grant program to help schools and school districts implement school wellness policies. Directs the education commissioner to adopt rules for required health and physical education standards. Appropriates \$2,000,000 from the general fund for school wellness grants.

#### Section

**1 Required academic standards.** Strikes language indicating that locally developed standards apply to health and physical education requirements.

Makes this section applicable to students entering the ninth grade in the 2008-2009 school year and later.

**2 Revisions and reviews required.** Strikes language directing school districts and charter schools to revise and align local standards in health and physical education.

Makes this section applicable to students entering the ninth grade in the 2008-2009 school year and later.

**3 Graduation requirements; course credits.** Requires students to complete one-half credit in health and one-half credit of physical education for graduation.

## Section

Makes this section applicable to students entering the ninth grade in the 2008-2009 school year and later.

**4 Local school wellness policies; department web site.** Directs school districts annually to transmit to the department locally approved school wellness policies that are consistent with federal school wellness requirements. Requires the department to post school wellness policies on the department web site.

**5 Grants to implement school wellness policies.** (a) Establishes a two-year grant program for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to help schools and school districts implement school wellness policies consistent with federal requirements. Requires applicants' school wellness policies to exceed federal requirements. Requires interested schools and school districts to apply to the education commissioner and to describe in the application how the applicant will address local child wellness concerns and involve interested stakeholders in implementing the policy. Allows the commissioner to require additional information.

(b) Allows the commissioner to award grants to eligible applicants throughout the state on a first-come, first-served basis. Bases the grant amount of the number of students participating and the projected program costs. Requires grantees to use grants to supplement but not supplant local expenditures for implementing a school wellness policy.

Makes this section effective immediately.

**6 Rulemaking authority.** Directs the education commissioner to adopt rules for health and physical education standards required for graduation after reviewing standards developed by the health and physical education quality teaching network and consulting with stakeholders and the public.

Makes this section effective immediately.

**7 Appropriation.** Appropriates \$2,000,000 from the general fund to the Education Department in fiscal year 2008 for grants to help schools and school districts implement school wellness policies consistent with federal requirements and to supplement local school wellness policies currently in effect. Makes the appropriation available through June 30, 2009.