

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Responsible family life and sexuality education programs

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Overview

Establishes the characteristics of a responsible family life and sexuality education program and proposes eight regional sites to provide technical assistance to school districts. Appropriates \$430,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$430,000 in fiscal year 2009 for the regional sites and school districts' programs. Repeals the statutory section governing programs to prevent and reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections and diseases.

Section

1 Comprehensive family life and sexuality education programs.

Subd. 1. Definitions. (a) Lists the characteristics of a responsible family life and sexuality education program.

(b) Defines the term "age-appropriate" for purposes of this section.

(c) Defines "medically accurate" for purposes of this section.

Subd. 2. Curriculum requirements. (a) Allows school districts to provide a kindergarten through grade 6 responsible family life and sexuality education program that is age-appropriate and medically accurate.

(b) Allows school districts to provide a responsible family life and sexuality education program for students in grades 7 through 12 that is age-appropriate and medically accurate.

(c) Requires school districts to consult with parents and guardians of enrolled students

when establishing policies, procedures, curriculum, and services under this subdivision.

Subd. 3. Notice and parental options. (a) Indicates the legislature's intent to encourage students to communicate with their parents and to respect parents' rights to supervise their children's education on matters of family life and sexuality education.

(b) Allows parents to excuse their children from a responsible family life and sexuality education program.

(c) Requires school districts to establish policies and procedures for notifying parents about whether the school districts are offering a responsible family life and sexuality education program, how parents may inspect program materials, who presents the program, and parents' right to choose not to have their children participate in the program.

(d) Directs school districts to establish policies and procedures to reasonably restrict access to program materials for students not participating in the program.

Subd. 4. Assistance to school districts. (a) Allows the Education Department to assist school districts in implementing a comprehensive family life and sexuality education program by establishing up to eight regional training sites throughout the state to provide training, staff resources, technical assistance, and grant funding.

(b) Requires the department's technical assistance to comply with national education health standards and to promote age appropriate instruction and materials, medically accurate and objective information, instruction and materials on marriage and committed relationships, instruction and materials that accommodate diverse backgrounds, instruction and materials that encourage students to communicate with their parents, instruction and materials about abstinence, instruction and materials about sexually transmitted infections, instruction and materials about preventing and reducing the risk of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, instruction and materials about making and implementing responsible decisions about sexuality and using health services, and instruction and materials that do not teach or promote religious doctrine or reflect or promote bias.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates \$430,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$430,000 in fiscal year 2009 for eight regional training sites responsible family life and sexuality education programs.

3 Repealer. Repeals the section (Minn. Stat. § 121A.23) governing programs to prevent and reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections and diseases.