

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Responsible Family Life and Sexuality Education Program

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### Overview

This bill creates the responsible family life and sexuality education program and repeals programs to prevent and reduce the risks of sexually transmitted infections and diseases.

#### Section

#### **1 Responsible family life and sexuality education programs.** Creates § 121A.231.

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines the terms “responsible family life and sexuality education,” “age-appropriate,” and “medically accurate.”

**Subd. 2. Curriculum requirements.** Requires school districts to offer responsible family life and sexuality education that is age-appropriate and medically accurate, meets the needs of all students in grades 6 through 12, and is consistent with locally developed health curriculum and instruction. Allows districts to establish policies, procedures, curriculum, and services for providing responsible family life and sexuality education. Requires school districts to implement the curriculum consistent with its curriculum review cycle, but no later than the start of the 2011-2012 school year. Requires districts to consult with parents or guardians of enrolled students when establishing policies, procedures, curriculum, and services under this subdivision. Allows districts to implement the curriculum through instruction from district personnel or outside consultants.

**Subd. 3. Notice and parental options.** Specifies it is the legislature’s intent to encourage pupils to communicate with their parents or guardians about human sexuality and to respect the rights of parents or guardians to supervise their children’s education of these subjects. Allows parents or guardians to excuse their children from all or part of a responsible family life and sexuality education program. Requires districts to make reasonable arrangements with school personnel for alternative instruction, and prohibits the district from imposing an academic or other

penalty upon a pupil for arranging the alternative instruction. Allows school personnel to evaluate and assess the quality of the pupil's work completed as part of the alternative instruction. Requires districts to establish policies and procedures consistent with this section for providing parents or guardians reasonable notice with certain specified information. Requires districts to establish policies and procedures for reasonably restricting the availability of written and audiovisual educational materials from public view of students who have been excused from all or part of a responsible family life and sexuality education program at the request of a parent or guardian.

**Subd. 4. Assistance to school districts.** Allows the Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Health, to offer services to districts, including training, resources, and technical assistance to help them implement responsible family life and sexuality education programs in accordance with national health education standards.

**Subd. 5. Federal funds.** Requires the Departments of Health and Education to seek available funds from the federal government, consistent with the definitions of a responsible family life and sexuality education program, including, but not limited to, funds available from the Office of Adolescent Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- 2 Repealer.** Repeals § 121A.23 (programs to prevent and reduce the risks of sexually transmitted infections and diseases).