

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Ruud and others

Subject: Preventing STI and Teen Pregnancy

Analyst: Emily Cleveland, 651.296.5808

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Overview

This bill would replace current statute that requires school districts to have a program intended to prevent and reduce risks of sexually transmitted infection (STI). Under this bill, districts would instead be required to implement responsible family life and sexuality education programs for students in grades 7-12. Also, this bill would require the Department of Health to assess STI rates in the state and make recommendations for significantly reducing these rates by 2014. This bill includes general fund appropriations for family planning special project grants and for grants to assist in prevention and treatment of STI.

Section

1 Responsible Family Life and Sexuality Education Programs. Adds § 121A.231.

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

Subd. 2. Curriculum requirements. Requires school districts to offer age-appropriate, medically accurate, responsible family life and sexuality education to students in grades 7 to 12. Requires school districts to consult with parents and guardians when establishing policies, curriculum, and services under this subdivision.

Subd. 3. Notice and parental options.

- States the legislature’s intent under this section.
- Permits parents and guardians to excuse their children from all or part of the responsible family life and sexuality education program.
- Requires school districts to give parents and guardians reasonable notice that includes certain information.
- Requires school districts to establish procedures to reasonably restrict the

availability of program materials from public view of students who have been excused from the program.

- States that school districts must make arrangements for students whose parents or guardians object to the content of the program. Prohibits school districts from imposing any penalty on a student for arranging alternative instruction. Permits school personnel to evaluate the quality of a student's work as part of the alternative instruction.

Subd. 4. Assistance to school districts. Permits the Department of Education to assist school districts in implementing effective responsible family life and sexuality education programs.

2 Recommendations for Reducing Sexually Transmitted Infections. Requires the commissioner of health to conduct an assessment and make recommendations on how to reduce statewide STI rates by 2014. Requires a report to the legislature by January 15, 2010.

3 Appropriations.

(a) Appropriates \$3,000,000 from the general fund for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to the commissioner of health for family planning special project grants under Minnesota Statutes, § 145.925.

(b) Appropriates \$1,300,000 from the general fund for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to the commissioner of health for grants to assist in prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

- Specifies that \$1,000,000 of this funding is for services for the detection and treatment of certain infections in areas of certain areas of the state.
- Specifies that \$300,000 of this funding is for community education.

4 Repealer. Repeals Minnesota Statutes, § 121A.23 (programs to prevent and reduce the risks of sexually transmitted infections and diseases).