

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HB 822:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education
3 Act," so as to provide that the prescribed course of study in sex education and HIV
4 prevention instruction is age appropriate and medically accurate and promotes sexual
5 abstinence; to include the subject of personal responsibility in such course of study; to
6 provide for implementation; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to
7 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is
12 amended by revising Code Section 20-2-143, relating to sex education and AIDS prevention
13 instruction, implementation, and student exemption, as follows:

14 "20-2-143.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'medically accurate' means that which is based
16 on sound scientific evidence and accepted medical knowledge, is consistent with

17 established principles of medicine, and is supported by reputable medical authorities,
18 research studies, and clinical evidence.

19 (a.1) Each local board of education shall prescribe a an age-appropriate and medically
20 accurate course of study in sex education and ~~AIDS~~ human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
21 prevention instruction for such grades and grade levels in the public school system as shall
22 be determined by the State Board of Education. Such course of study shall implement
23 either the minimum course of study provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section or
24 its equivalent, as approved by the State Board of Education. Each local board of education
25 shall be authorized to supplement and develop the exact approach of content areas of such
26 minimum course of study with such specific curriculum standards as it may deem
27 appropriate. Such standards shall include age-appropriate and medically accurate
28 instruction relating to the significance of personal boundaries and responsibility in
29 relationships, the handling of peer pressure, the promotion of high self-esteem, local
30 community values, the legal consequences of parenthood, and abstinence from sexual
31 activity as an effective method of prevention of pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases,
32 and ~~acquired immune deficiency syndrome~~ HIV.

33 (b) The State Board of Education shall prescribe a an age-appropriate and medically
34 accurate minimum course of study in sex education and ~~AIDS~~ human immunodeficiency
35 virus (HIV) prevention instruction which may be included as a part of a course of study in
36 comprehensive health education for such grades and grade levels in the public school
37 system as shall be determined by the state board and shall establish standards for its
38 administration. The course may include age-appropriate and medically accurate instruction
39 concerning human biology, conception, pregnancy, birth, sexually transmitted diseases, and
40 ~~acquired immune deficiency syndrome~~ HIV. The course shall include age-appropriate and
41 medically accurate instruction concerning the legal consequences of parenthood, including,
42 without being limited to, the legal obligation of both parents to support a child and legal
43 penalties or restrictions upon failure to support a child, including, without being limited to,

44 the possible suspension or revocation of a parent's driver's license and occupational or
45 professional licenses. The course shall ~~also~~ include annual age-appropriate instruction for
46 students in kindergarten through grade nine concerning awareness and prevention of sexual
47 abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in kindergarten through grade nine.

48 A manual setting out the details of such course of study shall be prepared by or approved
49 by the State School Superintendent in cooperation with the Department of Public Health,
50 the State Board of Education, and such expert advisers as they may choose.

51 (c) The minimum course of study to be prescribed by the State Board of Education
52 pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section shall be ready for implementation not later
53 than ~~July 1, 1988~~ August 1, 2024. Each local board shall implement either such minimum
54 course of study or its equivalent not later than July 1, ~~1989~~ 2025. Any local board of
55 education which fails to comply with this subsection shall not be eligible to receive any
56 state funding under this article until such minimum course of study or its equivalent has
57 been implemented.

58 (d) Any parent or legal guardian of a child to whom the course of study set forth in this
59 Code section is to be taught shall have the right to elect, in writing, that such child not
60 receive such course of study.

61 (e) All curricula and courses of instruction implemented under this Code section shall
62 emphasize sexual abstinence as the best method of optimizing student health because it is
63 the only completely reliable method of avoiding pregnancy; sexually transmitted diseases,
64 including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and other physical, mental, and emotional
65 harms resulting from underage sexual activity."

66 SECTION 2.

67 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.