

# House Bill 2570

Sponsored by Representatives SMITH DB, MCINTIRE (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires course instruction provided as part of health education curriculum to include information about human development from conception to birth.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to health education curriculum; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 336.455.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 336.455 is amended to read:

5 336.455. (1) Each school district shall provide age-appropriate human sexuality education courses  
6 in all public elementary and secondary schools as an integral part of the health education curric-  
7 ulum.

8 (2) Course material and instruction for all human sexuality education courses shall enhance  
9 students' understanding of sexuality as a normal and healthy aspect of human development. Course  
10 instruction shall:

11 (a) Be medically accurate.

12 (b) Be comprehensive.

13 (c) Include information about responsible sexual behaviors and hygienic practices that eliminate  
14 or reduce the risks of pregnancy and the risks of exposure to human immunodeficiency virus,  
15 hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted infections. Information about those risks shall  
16 be presented in a manner designed to allay fears concerning risks that are scientifically groundless.

17 (d) Promote abstinence for school-age youth and mutually monogamous relationships with an  
18 uninfected partner for adults as the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and the transmission  
19 of sexually transmitted infections. However, abstinence may not be taught to the exclusion of other  
20 material and instruction on contraceptive and infection reduction measures. Human sexuality edu-  
21 cation courses shall acknowledge the value of abstinence while not devaluing or ignoring those  
22 students who have had or are having sexual intercourse.

23 **(e) Include information about human development from conception to birth.**

24 [(e)] **(f)** Include a discussion about the characteristics of the emotional, physical and psycholog-  
25 ical aspects of a healthy relationship and a discussion about the benefits of delaying pregnancy be-  
26 yond the adolescent years as a means to better ensure a healthy future for parents and their  
27 children. Students shall be provided with statistics based on the latest medical information regarding  
28 both the health benefits and the possible side effects of all forms of contraceptives, including the  
29 success and failure rates for prevention of pregnancy.

30 [(f)] **(g)** Stress that sexually transmitted infections are serious possible outcomes of sexual con-  
31 tact. Students shall be provided with statistics based on the latest medical information regarding the

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 efficacy of all methods of sexual protection in preventing sexually transmitted infections, including  
2 human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

3 [(g)] (h) Provide students with information about Oregon laws that address young people’s rights  
4 and responsibilities related to childbearing and parenting.

5 [(h)] (i) Advise students of the circumstances in which it is unlawful under ORS 163.435 and  
6 163.445 for persons 18 years of age or older to have sexual relations with persons younger than 18  
7 years of age to whom they are not married.

8 [(i)] (j) Teach students that no form of sexual expression is acceptable when the expression  
9 physically or emotionally harms oneself or others and teach students not to make unwanted physical  
10 and verbal sexual advances, how to decline unwanted sexual advances or accept the refusal of un-  
11 wanted sexual advances. Students shall be taught that it is wrong to take advantage of or to exploit  
12 another person. Materials and information shall be presented in a manner sensitive to the fact that  
13 there are students who have experienced sexual abuse.

14 [(j)] (k) Validate through course material and instruction the importance of honesty with oneself  
15 and others, respect for each person’s dignity and well-being, and responsibility for one’s actions.

16 [(k)] (L) Assist students in the development and practice of effective communication skills, the  
17 development of self-esteem and the ability to resist peer pressure.

18 [(L)] (m) Encourage family communication and involvement to help students learn to make re-  
19 sponsible decisions.

20 (3) Any course in any public elementary and secondary school, the main purpose of which is to  
21 address human sexuality education or sexually transmitted infections, including human  
22 immunodeficiency virus, or both, must emphasize that abstinence from sexual contact is the only  
23 method that is 100 percent effective against unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections  
24 and human immunodeficiency virus when transmitted sexually. Abstinence must be stressed, but not  
25 to the exclusion of other material and instruction on contraceptive and infection reduction meas-  
26 ures. Courses described in this subsection must acknowledge the value of abstinence while not de-  
27 valuing or ignoring those students who have had or are having sexual intercourse.

28 (4) Nothing in this section prohibits instruction in sanitation, hygiene or traditional courses in  
29 biology.

30 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 336.455 by section 1 of this 2023 Act apply to course**  
31 **instruction provided beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.**

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