

Senate Bill 918

Sponsored by Senator BONHAM

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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Requires health classes to cover from conception to birth. (Flesch Readability Score: 66.1).

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

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 1. ORS 336.455 is amended to read:

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

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

(a) Be medically accurate.

(b) Be comprehensive.

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

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

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

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

[(f)] **(g)** Stress that sexually transmitted infections are serious possible outcomes of sexual con-

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 tact. Students shall be provided with statistics based on the latest medical information regarding the
 2 efficacy of all methods of sexual protection in preventing sexually transmitted infections, including
 3 human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 336.455 by section 1 of this 2025 Act apply to course**
 32 **instruction provided beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.**

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