

HOUSE BILL NO. DRAFT
Offered January xx, XXXX
Prefilled: Prefilled: The Members of Legislators of Tomorrow
Last Edited March 31, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact § [22.1-207.1](#). and § [22.1-207.1:1](#) to Mandate Family Life Education in Virginia is medically accurate, discusses consent and healthy relationships, and includes definitions for abstinence education, medically accurate education, and consent.

Patron -- TBD

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § [22.1-207.1](#). of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

A. As used in this section:

"Abstinence education" means an *<unbiased>* educational or ~~motivational~~ component that has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by teenagers' abstaining from sexual activity before marriage.

<"Consent" means an affirmative, unambiguous, and completely voluntary agreement between individuals to engage in a specific sexual activity during a sexual encounter. Consent cannot be given by an individual who: 1) is asleep or is mentally or physically incapacitated either through the effect of drugs or alcohol or otherwise, 2) is under duress, threat, coercion or force, or 3) incapable of understanding or unaware of the nature and consequences of a sexual act for any other reason.>

<"Medically accurate" means verified or supported by research conducted in compliance with scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals, and recognized as both accurate and objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant field, such as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.>

B. The Board of Education shall develop Standards of Learning and curriculum guidelines for a comprehensive, sequential family life education curriculum in grades kindergarten through 12. Such curriculum guidelines shall include instruction *<that is medically accurate and>* as appropriate for the age of the student in family living and community relationships; the benefits, challenges, responsibilities, and value of marriage for men, women, children, and communities; the value of family relationships; abstinence education; the value of postponing sexual activity; the benefits of adoption as a positive choice in the event of an unwanted pregnancy; human sexuality; human reproduction; *<discusses the concept of consent and healthy relationships for educating purposes>*; the prevention of human trafficking; dating violence, the characteristics of abusive relationships, steps to take to deter sexual assault, the availability of counseling and legal resources, and, in the event of such sexual assault, the importance of immediate medical attention and advice, as well as the requirements of the law; the etiology, prevention, and effects of sexually transmitted diseases; and mental health education and awareness.

C. All such instructions shall be designed to promote parental involvement, foster positive self-concepts, ~~and~~ provide mechanisms for coping with peer pressure and the stresses of modern living according to the students' developmental stages and abilities, *<and be medically accurate as determined by the Virginia Department of Education>*. The Board shall also establish requirements for appropriate training for teachers of family life education, which shall include training in instructional elements to support the various curriculum components.

2. That § [22.1-207.1:1](#) of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

A. [No Change to this Section]

B. Any high school family life education curriculum offered by a local school division shall incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on (i) the prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, including sexual harassment using electronic means, sexual violence, and human trafficking and (ii) the law and meaning of consent *<as defined in § 22.1-207.1.>* Such age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of sexual violence ~~may~~*<must>* include instruction that increases student awareness that consent is required before the commission of sexual activity.

C. [No Change to this Section]

D. [No Change to this Section]

E. [No Change to this Section]