

By the Committee on Education and Senator Lee

304-2179-99

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to courses of study; amending  
s. 233.061, F.S.; authorizing certain  
exemptions from required reproductive health or  
HIV/AIDS instructional activities; conforming  
terminology; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 233.061, Florida  
Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

233.061 Required instruction.--

(3) Any student child whose parent or guardian makes  
written request ~~presents~~ to the school principal shall be  
exempted from a signed statement that the teaching of  
reproductive health or any disease, its symptoms, development,  
and treatment, including HIV/AIDS. A student, and the viewing  
of pictures or motion pictures that teach about disease,  
conflict with the religious teachings of the child's religious  
affiliation, is exempt from such instruction; and a child so  
exempted may not be penalized by reason of that exemption.  
Course descriptions for comprehensive health education shall  
not interfere with the local determination of appropriate  
curriculum which reflects local values and concerns.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SB 1440

The following reflects the differences between the committee substitute and the original bill:

Broadens the current exemption in s. 233.061(3), F.S., for students from instruction in certain subject areas, upon written request by the parent or guardian to the school principal;

Eliminates the references to providing disease instruction through photographs or movies; and

Provides that course descriptions rather than curriculum frameworks must not interfere with local determination of appropriate curriculum.