

By Senator Smith

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public K-12 education; amending s.
3 1003.42, F.S.; providing that comprehensive health
4 education taught in the public schools shall include a
5 component on teen dating violence and abuse for
6 students in grades 7 through 12; creating s. 1006.148,
7 F.S.; requiring district school boards to adopt and
8 implement a dating violence and abuse policy;
9 providing policy requirements; requiring the
10 Department of Education to develop a model policy;
11 requiring school personnel training; providing an
12 effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Paragraph (n) of subsection (2) of section
17 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 1003.42 Required instruction.—

19 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
20 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
21 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
22 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
23 highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,
24 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
25 approved methods of instruction, the following:

26 (n) Comprehensive health education that addresses concepts
27 of community health; consumer health; environmental health;
28 family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual
29 abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of

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30 teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; injury
31 prevention and safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention
32 and control of disease; and substance use and abuse. The health
33 education curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12 shall
34 include a teen dating violence and abuse component that
35 includes, but is not limited to, the definition of dating
36 violence and abuse, the warning signs of dating violence and
37 abusive behavior, the characteristics of healthy relationships,
38 measures to prevent and stop dating violence and abuse, and
39 legal remedies and community resources available to victims of
40 dating violence and abuse.

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42 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
43 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

44 Section 2. Section 1006.148, Florida Statutes, is created
45 to read:

46 1006.148 Dating violence and abuse prohibited.—

47 (1) Each district school board shall adopt and implement a
48 dating violence and abuse policy. The policy shall:

49 (a) Prohibit dating violence and abuse by any student on
50 school property, during a school-sponsored activity, or during
51 school-sponsored transportation.

52 (b) Provide procedures for responding to such incidents of
53 dating violence or abuse, including accommodations for students
54 experiencing dating violence or abuse.

55 (c) Define dating violence and abuse and provide for a teen
56 dating violence and abuse component in the health education
57 curriculum, according to s. 1003.42(2)(n), with emphasis on
58 prevention education.

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59 (d) Be implemented in a manner that is integrated with a
60 school district's discipline policies.

61 (2) To assist district school boards in developing a policy
62 prohibiting dating violence and abuse, the Department of
63 Education shall develop a model policy.

64 (3) Each district school board shall provide training for
65 teachers, staff, and school administrators to implement this
66 section.

67 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.