

Senate File 2185 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2185
BY JOHNSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to compliance with state physical education and
2 health course standards by school districts and accredited
3 nonpublic schools.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 6, paragraph a, Code
2 Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. A pupil is not required to enroll in either physical
4 education or health courses, or meet the requirements of
5 paragraph "b" or "c", if the pupil's parent or guardian files a
6 written statement with the school principal that the course or
7 activity conflicts with the pupil's religious ~~belief~~ beliefs.
8 Upon written request, the board of directors of each school
9 district shall make all textbooks, pamphlets, teaching aids,
10 and videos used for school district physical education or
11 health courses or related activities available for inspection
12 at reasonable times by a student, or the parent or guardian
13 of a student, enrolled in the school district at least three
14 months prior to the start of the school calendar.

15 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 6, Code Supplement 2009,
16 is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

17 NEW PARAGRAPH. d. Notwithstanding any provision of this
18 section to the contrary, a nonpublic school is not required to
19 teach physical education or health courses or provide related
20 activities if the nonpublic school submits a written statement
21 to the state board that such a course or activity conflicts
22 with the religious beliefs under which the nonpublic school
23 exists or is affiliated.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill exempts a nonpublic school from the physical
26 education and health activities and teaching requirements under
27 the state educational standards if the nonpublic school submits
28 a written statement to the state board of education that such
29 a course or activity conflicts with the religious beliefs
30 under which the nonpublic school exists or is affiliated. The
31 bill also requires school districts upon written request, at
32 reasonable times, and at least three months prior to the start
33 of the school calendar, to make available for inspection by
34 a student or parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the
35 district, all textbooks, pamphlets, teacher aids, and videos

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1 used for the school district's physical education or health
2 courses or related activities.