

**Senate File 2174 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2174

BY CHELGREN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the conditions for which a student enrolled  
2 in grades one through twelve may be excused from physical  
3 education requirements.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2018,  
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 3. The following areas shall be taught in grades one through  
4 six: English-language arts, social studies, mathematics,  
5 science, health, age-appropriate and research-based human  
6 growth and development, physical education, traffic safety,  
7 music, and visual art.

8 a. The health curriculum shall include the characteristics  
9 of communicable diseases including acquired immune deficiency  
10 syndrome.

11 b. A school may excuse a student from the physical education  
12 component of the elementary program if the student's parent  
13 or guardian requests in writing that the student be excused  
14 from the physical education class offered and taught under  
15 this subsection and the student engages in physical activity  
16 for at least two hours per week at a fitness exercise club or  
17 other physical fitness or sports center that is approved by the  
18 school for this purpose.

19 c. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall  
20 adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the elementary  
21 program.

22 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and  
23 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;  
24 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human  
25 growth and development; career exploration and development;  
26 physical education; music; and visual art.

27 a. Career exploration and development shall be designed  
28 so that students are appropriately prepared to create an  
29 individual career and academic plan pursuant to section  
30 279.61, incorporate foundational career and technical education  
31 concepts aligned with the six career and technical education  
32 service areas as defined in [subsection 5](#), paragraph "h", and  
33 incorporate relevant twenty-first century skills.

34 b. The health curriculum shall include age-appropriate  
35 and research-based information regarding the characteristics

1 of sexually transmitted diseases, including HPV and the  
2 availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV, and acquired  
3 immune deficiency syndrome. The state board as part of  
4 accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum definitions for  
5 implementing the program in grades seven and eight. However,  
6 this subsection shall not apply to the teaching of career  
7 exploration and development in nonpublic schools. For purposes  
8 of [this section](#), "age-appropriate", "HPV", and "research-based"  
9 mean the same as defined in [section 279.50](#).

10 c. A school may excuse a student from the physical education  
11 component of the education program if the student's parent  
12 or guardian requests in writing that the student be excused  
13 from the physical education class offered and taught under  
14 this subsection and the student engages in physical activity  
15 for at least two hours per week at a fitness exercise club or  
16 other physical fitness or sports center that is approved by the  
17 school for this purpose.

18 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,  
19 subparagraph (1), Code 2018, is amended by adding the following  
20 new subparagraph division:

21 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH DIVISION. (c) Physical fitness activity  
22 for at least two hours per week at a fitness exercise club or  
23 other physical fitness or sports center that is approved by the  
24 school for this purpose.

25 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,  
26 subparagraph (2), Code 2018, is amended to read as follows:

27 (2) Students in grades nine through eleven may be excused  
28 from the physical education requirement in order to enroll  
29 in academic courses not otherwise available to the student  
30 if the board of directors of the school district in which  
31 the school is located, or the authorities in charge of the  
32 school, if the school is a nonpublic school, determine that  
33 students from the school may be permitted to be excused  
34 from the physical education requirement. A student may be  
35 excused by the principal of the school in which the student is

