

Senate File 2273 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2273
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2174)

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

1 enrolled, in consultation with the student's counselor, for up
2 to one semester, trimester, or the equivalent of a semester or
3 trimester, per year if the parent or guardian of the student
4 requests in writing that the student be excused from the
5 physical education requirement. The student seeking to be
6 excused from the physical education requirement must, at some
7 time during the period for which the excuse is sought, be meet
8 any of the following conditions:

9 (a) Be a participant in an organized and supervised athletic
10 program which requires at least as much time of participation
11 per week as one-eighth unit of physical education.

12 (b) Engage in physical fitness activity for at least two
13 hours per week at a fitness exercise club or other physical
14 fitness or sports center that is approved by the school for
15 this purpose.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill authorizes a student in grades 1 through 12 to
20 be excused from the physical fitness requirements under the
21 state's educational standards if the student is engaging in
22 physical fitness activity for at least two hours per week at
23 a fitness exercise club or other physical fitness or sports
24 center that is approved by the school.