

House File 2617 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2617
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2031)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act incorporating provisions related to pregnancy and
2 fetal development into the human growth and development and
3 health curriculum provided by school districts, accredited
4 nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone
5 schools to students enrolled in grades seven through twelve.
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 4, Code 2024, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and
4 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;
5 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human
6 growth and development; career exploration and development;
7 physical education; music; and visual art. Computer science
8 instruction incorporating the standards established under
9 section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4),
10 shall be offered in at least one grade level commencing with
11 the school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career exploration
12 and development shall be designed so that students are
13 appropriately prepared to create an individual career
14 and academic plan pursuant to [section 279.61](#), incorporate
15 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned
16 with the six career and technical education service areas as
17 defined in [subsection 5](#), paragraph "h", incorporate relevant
18 twenty-first century skills to facilitate career readiness,
19 and introduce students to career opportunities within the
20 local community and across this state. The health curriculum
21 shall include age-appropriate and research-based information
22 regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.
23 The state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt
24 curriculum definitions for implementing the program in grades
25 seven and eight. However, [this subsection](#) shall not apply to
26 the teaching of career exploration and development in nonpublic
27 schools. The human growth and development curriculum shall
28 include all of the following:

29 a. Human biology related to pregnancy.

30 b. Human development inside the womb.

31 c. A high-definition ultrasound video, at least three
32 minutes in duration, showing the development of the brain,
33 heart, sex organs, and other vital organs in early fetal
34 development.

35 d. A high-quality, computer-generated rendering or

1 animation, comparable to the meet baby Olivia video developed
2 by live action, showing the process of fertilization and
3 every stage of human development inside the uterus, noting
4 significant markers in cell growth and organ development for
5 every significant marker of pregnancy until birth.

6 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph j,
7 subparagraph (1), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

8 (1) One unit of health education which may include personal
9 health; food and nutrition; environmental health; safety and
10 survival skills; consumer health; family life; age-appropriate
11 and research-based human growth and development; substance
12 use disorder and nonuse; emotional and social health; health
13 resources; cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and prevention
14 and control of disease, including age-appropriate and
15 research-based information regarding sexually transmitted
16 diseases. The health education curriculum shall include all
17 of the following:

18 (a) Human biology related to pregnancy.

19 (b) Human development inside the womb.

20 (c) A high-definition ultrasound video, at least three
21 minutes in duration, showing the development of the brain,
22 heart, sex organs, and other vital organs in early fetal
23 development.

24 (d) A high-quality, computer-generated rendering or
25 animation, comparable to the meet baby Olivia video developed
26 by live action, showing the process of fertilization and
27 every stage of human development inside the uterus, noting
28 significant markers in cell growth and organ development for
29 every significant marker of pregnancy until birth.

30 Sec. 3. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code
31 2024, is amended to read as follows:

32 g. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section
33 256.7, subsection 21, and the educational standards of section
34 256.11, unless specifically waived by the state board during
35 the application process; provided, however, that the state

1 board shall not waive the educational standards of section
2 256.11 relating to the human growth and development curriculum
3 for grades seven and eight or the health curriculum for grades
4 nine through twelve.

5 Sec. 4. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
6 by adding the following new paragraph:

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. *p.* Be subject to and comply with the
8 requirements of section 256.11 relating to the human growth
9 and development curriculum for grades seven and eight and the
10 health curriculum for grades nine through twelve.

11 EXPLANATION

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

14 This bill incorporates provisions related to pregnancy and
15 fetal development into the human growth and development and
16 health curriculum provided by school districts, accredited
17 nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools
18 to students enrolled in grades 7 through 12.

19 The bill requires that the human growth and development
20 curriculum provided by school districts, nonpublic schools,
21 charter schools, and innovation zone schools in grades 7 and
22 8, and the health curriculum in grades 9 through 12, include
23 instruction regarding human biology related to pregnancy and
24 human development inside the womb. The bill also requires
25 that such curriculum include a video, at least three minutes
26 in duration, showing the development of the brain, heart, sex
27 organs, and other vital organs in early fetal development,
28 and a rendering or animation, comparable to the meet baby
29 Olivia video developed by live action, showing the process of
30 fertilization and every stage of human development inside the
31 uterus, noting significant markers in cell growth and organ
32 development for every significant marker of pregnancy until
33 birth.