

House File 391 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 391
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 34)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act incorporating provisions related to pregnancy and fetal
2 development into the human growth and development and health
3 curriculum provided by school districts, accredited nonpublic
4 schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to
5 students enrolled in grades seven through twelve.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 4, Code 2025, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven
4 and eight: English-language arts; social studies, including
5 instruction related to civics; mathematics; science; health;
6 age-appropriate and research-based human growth and development;
7 career exploration and development; physical education; music;
8 and visual art. Computer science instruction incorporating
9 the standards established under section 256.7, subsection 26,
10 paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), shall be offered in at least
11 one grade level commencing with the school year beginning July
12 1, 2023. Career exploration and development shall be designed so
13 that students are appropriately prepared to create an individual
14 career 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, and
19 introduce students to career opportunities within the local
20 community and across this state. The health curriculum shall
21 include age-appropriate and research-based information regarding
22 the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases. The state
23 board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum
24 definitions for implementing the program in grades seven and
25 eight. However, this subsection shall not apply to the teaching
26 of career exploration and development in nonpublic schools. The
27 human growth and development curriculum shall include all of the
28 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 minutes
32 in duration, showing the development of the brain, heart, sex
33 organs, and other vital organs in early fetal development.
34 d. A high-quality, computer-generated rendering or animation,
35 comparable to the meet baby Olivia video developed by live

1 action, showing the process of fertilization and every stage of
2 human development inside the uterus, noting significant markers
3 in cell growth and organ development for every significant marker
4 of pregnancy until birth.

5 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph j,
6 subparagraph (1), Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

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

16 (a) Human biology related to pregnancy.

17 (b) Human development inside the womb.

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

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

27 Sec. 3. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code 2025,
28 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

29 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (01) The educational standards established
30 in section 256.11 relating to the human growth and development
31 curriculum for grades seven and eight or the health curriculum
32 for grades nine through twelve.

33 Sec. 4. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
34 by adding the following new paragraph:

35 NEW PARAGRAPH. r. Be subject to and comply with the

1 requirements of section 256.11 relating to the human growth and
2 development curriculum for grades seven and eight and the health
3 curriculum for grades nine through twelve.

4 EXPLANATION

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

7 This bill incorporates provisions related to pregnancy and
8 fetal development into the human growth and development and
9 health curriculum provided by school districts, accredited
10 nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools
11 to students enrolled in grades 7 through 12.

12 The bill requires that the human growth and development
13 curriculum provided by school districts, nonpublic schools,
14 charter schools, and innovation zone schools in grades 7 and
15 8, and the health curriculum in grades 9 through 12, include
16 instruction regarding human biology related to pregnancy and
17 human development inside the womb. The bill also requires
18 that such curriculum include a video, at least three minutes
19 in duration, showing the development of the brain, heart, sex
20 organs, and other vital organs in early fetal development, and a
21 rendering or animation, comparable to the meet baby Olivia video
22 developed by live action, showing the process of fertilization
23 and every stage of human development inside the uterus, noting
24 significant markers in cell growth and organ development for
25 every significant marker of pregnancy until birth.