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HOUSE BILL NO. 1206

Offered January 15, 2002

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-207.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to family life education.

Patrons—Reese, Albo, Athey, Bell, Black, Broman, Bryant, Carrico, Cole, Cosgrove, Hamilton, Hogan, Hurt, Ingram, Janis, Kilgore, Landes, Lingamfelter, Marrs, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., May, McQuigg, Nutter, O'Brien, Oder, Parrish, Rust, Saxman, Sears, Tata, Welch and Wright

Referred to Committee on Education

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Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-207.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-207.1. Family life education.

The Board of Education shall develop by December 1, 1987, standards of learning and curriculum guidelines for a comprehensive, sequential family life education curriculum in grades K through 12. Such curriculum guidelines shall include instruction as appropriate for the age of the student in family living and community relationships, abstinence education, the value of postponing sexual activity, the benefits of adoption as the preferred choice in the event of an unwanted pregnancy, human sexuality, human reproduction, and the etiology, prevention and effects of sexually transmitted diseases.

All such instruction shall be designed to promote parental involvement, foster positive self concepts and provide mechanisms for coping with peer pressure and the stresses of modern living according to the students' developmental stages and abilities. The Board shall also establish by December 1, 1987, requirements for appropriate training for teachers of family life education, which shall include training in instructional elements to support the various curriculum components.

By December 1, 1987, the Board of Education shall provide the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance an analysis of the state and local fiscal impact of implementing a mandatory statewide family life education program and a recommended apportionment of state and local funding for such programs if not otherwise determined by law.

For the purposes of this section, "abstinence education" means an educational or motivational component which has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by teenagers' abstaining from sexual activity before marriage.