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HOUSE BILL NO. 1980

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 13, 2009

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-207.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to family life education; right of parents to review certain materials.

Patrons—McClellan, Alexander, BaCote, Englin, Herring, Hull, Toscano, Vanderhye and Watts

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 22.1-207.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 22.1-207.2. Right of parents to review certain materials; summaries distributed on request.

Every parent, guardian or other person in the Commonwealth having control or charge of any child who is required by § 22.1-254 A to send such child to a public school shall have the right to review the complete family life curricula, including all supplemental materials used in any family life education program. A complete copy of all printed materials and a description of all audio-visual materials shall be kept in the school library or office and made available for review to any parent or guardian during school office hours before and during the school year. The audio-visual materials shall be made available to parents for review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available.

Each school board shall develop and, ~~when so requested by an individual parent or guardian of a student participating in the family life education program,~~ distribute to ~~that parent or guardian, the parents or guardians of a student participating in the family life education program~~ a summary designed to assist parents in understanding the program implemented in its school division as such program progresses and to encourage parental guidance and involvement in the instruction of the students. Such information shall reflect the curricula of the program as taught in the classroom. *If the program's curriculum is comprised solely of abstinence education, the school division shall include the following information on the summary:*

"Your child is receiving abstinence-only education. When providing instruction or discussing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases as a part of the program, abstinence is the only prevention information provided or discussed. This program does not conform to the Virginia Board of Education Guidelines for Family Life Education, in which abstinence is stressed and information on birth control to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is also included. Parents and guardians have the right to review the family life education program offered by their school division, including written and audio-visual educational materials used in the program. Parents and guardians also have the right to excuse their child from all or part of family life education instruction."

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