



2018 New York State YMCA

Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3

Bill #: AF-20

1 **Sponsors:** Gabrielle Abato, Ananya Chatterjee, Paola Magana, Micaela Oram

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend §135.3 of the Commissioner of Education's regulations to require secondary
5 schools to teach comprehensive sexual education in health classes.

6

7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

8

9 **Purpose**

10 The purpose of this bill is to require the teaching of comprehensive sexual
11 education in all public high school health classes.

12

13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 Section 1: Definitions

15 Health education: instruction in understandings, attitudes and behavior in regard to
16 the several dimensions of health. This instruction relates to alcohol, tobacco and
17 other drugs, safety, mental health, nutrition, dental health, sensory perception,
18 disease prevention and control, environmental and public health, consumer health,
19 first aid, and other health-related areas.

20 Consent: an agreement between all participants to engage in sexual activity.

21 Comprehensive Sexual Education: sex education instruction method based on-
22 curriculum that aims to give students the knowledge, attitudes, skills and values to
23 make appropriate and healthy choices in their sexual lives.

24

25 Section 2: Provisions _____

26 Health education in the secondary schools. (1) The secondary school curriculum
27 shall include health education as a constant for all pupils. In addition to continued
28 health guidance in the junior high school grades, provision shall also be made for a
29 separate one-half year course. In addition to continued health guidance in the
30 senior high school, provision shall also be made for an approved one-half unit
31 course. Health education shall be required for all pupils in the junior and senior high
32 school grades and shall be taught by teachers holding a certificate to teach health.
33 A member of each faculty with approved preparation shall be designated as health
34 coordinator, in order that the entire faculty may cooperate in realizing the potential
35 health teaching values of the school programs. The health coordinator shall insure
36 that related school courses are conducted in a manner supportive of health
37 education, and provide for cooperation with community agencies and use of
38 community resources necessary for achieving a complete school -community health



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39 education program. Comprehensive sexual education will be mandatory. This
40 education will include teaching consent, healthy relationships, appreciating overt
41 and implied signals of sexual domination, contraception methods, condom usage,
42 STI causes and symptoms, and termination options for unintended pregnancies.

43

Justification

45 The need for a comprehensive mandate to teach consent, a concept that ideally
46 should be common sense is disheartening at one level, but it also underscores its
47 urgency and importance in these current times. In a survey conducted by Planned
48 Parenthood, 19% of participants strongly agreed that consent is characterized by
49 merely not saying "No." This continued misconception of the true definition of
50 consent indicates a gap in public knowledge. Educating the youth on the true
51 aspects of consent and the heinous consequences of violating it will make a big
52 dent in the problem, especially if done as our world views are still evolving.
53 Teaching future generations will hopefully help to overturn a mentality that has
54 been warped and corrupt for hundreds of years. With this amendment, we hope to
55 see a more kind, respectful environment, where everyone is treated fairly without
56 the fear of oppression and inferiority.

57

Fiscal Implications

59 The fiscal implications of this bill will differ between school districts. Districts have
60 the option of purchasing extensive consent education curriculum for their schools,
61 and may need to use school resources, such as paper and ink, in order to properly
62 teach the added material. However, no additional teachers will need to be hired to
63 implement this bill, and there is the potential for no additional costs to be required.
64 School districts can use free resources and create their own resources in order to
65 teach the added material. Regardless of the school districts decisions, there will be
66 very little fiscal implications with the implementation of this bill.

67

Effective Date

69 This bill will go into effect July 1 of the year following its passage.