



**New York State YMCA**  
**Youth And Government**

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #:AL-14

1 **Sponsors:** Ailish MacDonnell, Gabriela Doherty, Reilly Johnson, Cate Doyle

2  
3 **An Act To:** Amend §1028B of the Sexual Health Education law so that its a full New  
4 York State bill establishing a statewide sexual health education task force to mandate  
5 comprehensive, medically accurate, culturally, and age appropriate sex education to  
6 be taught in all public schools in grades six through twelve.

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

10  
11 **Purpose**

12 Mandates that comprehensive, medically accurate, culturally, and age appropriate  
13 sex education be taught in all public schools in grades six through twelve.

14  
15 **Summary of Provisions:**

16  
17 **Section 1:** Definitions

18 Medically accurate;verified or supported by research conducted in compliance with  
19 accepted scientific methods and recognized as accurate and objective by professional  
20 organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant field, such as the federal  
21 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

22 Age appropriate; suitable for a particular age or age group.

23  
24 **Section 2:**

25 A bill establishing a citywide statewide sexual health education task force –  
26 into law, making his the first Administration to launch a comprehensive review of the  
27 current state of sexual health education in New York City State. The bill is promoting  
28 the spread of sex education in classrooms throughout New York. With more people  
29 learning about proper health information, fewer people will have to struggle with the  
30 unknowingness of safe sex. The most efficient way for a longer solution leading to  
31 knowledge on sex education is through learning it in school, with real-world examples  
32 and statistics, instead of just touching on the subject or only teaching abstinence  
33 which has been shown to be ineffective. "There's a lot of social and emotional learning  
34 embedded throughout," said Stephanie Gregson, director of the Curriculum  
35 Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division at the California Department of  
36 Education."Not learning about sex education from an early age is just going to hurt  
37 more people. Children will have sex so instead of not adressing it at all or just telling  
38 them to practice abstinence they need to be informed on how to do so safely.



**New York State YMCA**  
**Youth And Government**

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #:AL-14

39

40 **Justification:** "The United States ranks first among developed nations in rates of  
41 both teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases" according to [Kathrin F.](#)  
42 [Stanger-Hall](#) and [David W. Hall](#). Sex education laws would overall decrease the  
43 number of unexpected pregnancy rates and STd's in the United States for those in  
44 all classes of economy but especially those in poverty. The Guttmacher Institute  
45 states, "In 2011, the unintended pregnancy rate among women with incomes lower  
46 than the federal poverty level, at 112 per 1,000." The National Conference of State  
47 Legislators explains, " In 2011, approximately 24 percent of new HIV diagnoses were  
48 young people age 13 to 24." This shows that teens not being educated of sexual  
49 diseases causes them to be exposed to them and not knowing how to properly protect  
50 and prepare themselves which could have been prevented. There is a real way to  
51 prevent pregnancies for those who had them from unintended sex. The US Library of  
52 Medicine elaborates on this important issue. "Fully 95% of unintended pregnancies  
53 are attributable to the one-third of women who do not use contraceptives." If schools  
54 teach students to use contraceptives and show them negative outcomes, they will  
55 learn to use it, and reduce the amount of complications. Another important attribute  
56 to sex education is what is being taught. "The level of abstinence education (no  
57 provision, covered, promoted, stressed) was positively correlated with both teen  
58 pregnancy and teen birth rates, indicating that abstinence education in the U.S. does  
59 not cause abstinence behavior. To the contrary, teens in states that prescribe more  
60 abstinence education are actually more likely to become pregnant." according to  
61 [Abstinence-Only Education and Teen Pregnancy Rates: Why We Need Comprehensive](#)  
62 [Sex Education in the U.S.](#) Many states only teach abstinence which is actually making  
63 matters worse which is part of the reason it is so important for better education on  
64 the subject.

65

66 **Fiscal Implications:** In FY 2016 Congress provided \$176 million in federal funding  
67 for sex education programs. New York would be using the funding in these programs.

68

69 **Environmental Implications:** There would be no Environmental Implications.

70

71 **Effective Date:** 3/16/21

72

73