

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 806

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: Authorizes a Dept. of Education survey of students regarding risk behaviors

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:281(A)(2), relative to the Department of Education;
3 authorizes the department to survey students about risk behavior associated with
4 chronic health conditions; provides relative to sex education classes; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:281(A)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §281. Instruction in sex education

9 A.

10 * * *

11 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that, for the purposes of this Section, "sex
12 education" shall mean the dissemination of factual biological or pathological
13 information that is related to the human reproduction system and may include the
14 study of sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy, childbirth, puberty, menstruation,
15 and menopause, as well as the dissemination of factual information about parental
16 responsibilities under the child support laws of the state. It is the intent of the
17 legislature that "sex education" shall not include religious beliefs, practices in human
18 sexuality, nor the subjective moral and ethical judgments of the instructor or other
19 persons. Students shall not be tested, quizzed, or surveyed about their personal or
20 family beliefs or practices in regarding sex, morality, or religion; however, the

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Louisiana Department of Education may survey students about their risk behavior

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associated with chronic health conditions including those related to sexual health.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Smith

HB No. 806

Abstract: Provides that despite limitations on sex education classes, the Dept. of Education may survey students about their risk behavior associated with chronic health conditions, including those related to sexual health.

Present law provides for instruction in sex education in the state. Provides that any public elementary or secondary school in La. may offer instruction in subject matter designated as "sex education", provided that such instruction and subject matter is integrated into an existing course of study such as biology, science, physical hygiene, or physical education.

Present law provides that students shall not be tested, quizzed, or surveyed about their personal beliefs or practices in sex, morality, or religion. Proposed law eliminates provision that prohibits students from being surveyed about their practices in sex, morality, or religion.

Proposed law also authorizes the La. Dept. of Education to survey students about their risk behavior associated with chronic health conditions, including those related to sexual health. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:281(A)(2))