March 19, 2001

S 515. SCHOOL HEALTH CURRICULUM MODIFIED. *TO AMEND THE LAW PERTAINING THE SCHOOL HEALTH CURRICULUM.* G.S. 115C-81(e1) now mandates a comprehensive school health education program in the public schools for grades K-9, outlines the subject areas to be addressed, and addresses in detail the objectives and curriculum components of instruction in prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, especially as pertains to abstinence until marriage. This bill makes the following modifications in these provisions: (1) requires that the curriculum teach that abstinence from sexual activity until marriage is the only certain means of avoiding "out-of-wedlock pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases" (now, "out-of-wedlock pregnancy, and other associated health and emotional problems") and that "a monogamous relationship is the best lifelong means" of avoiding diseases transmitted by sexual contact (now, "a mutually faithful monogamous heterosexual relationship in the context of marriage"); (2) requires that instruction in causes of sexually transmitted diseases, where either homosexual or heterosexual acts are a significant means of transmission, shall include current legal status of such acts (now, refers only to homosexual acts); (3) adds provision clarifying that "factually accurate biological or pathological" information pertaining to the human reproductive system means information supported by research recognized as accurate and objective by leading medical, psychological, public health organizations, and where relevant, tested in clinical trials and published in peer review journals; (4) provides that the health education program may also include other age appropriate curricula approved by the local school administrative unit; and (5) adds provision that program may include off-campus components, but that the program does not include individual consultation or counseling outside of the curriculum of instruction. Effective for beginning of 2001-02 school year.

Intro. by Lucas.

Ref. to Education	GS 115C