

March 19, 2007

H 879. MODIFY SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM. Filed 3/16/07. *TO AMEND THE STATUTES PERTAINING TO THE SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM.* Amends GS 115C-81(e1), regarding the school health education program, as follows. Expands the required subject areas for the comprehensive school health education program in kindergarten through ninth grade to include (1) preventing unintended pregnancy, (2) awareness of sexual abuse and assault and risk reduction, and (3) abstinence-based comprehensive sexual health education (was, abstinence until marriage education). Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide comprehensive sexual health education (CSH Ed.) in grades seven to twelve inclusive. Deletes language that under current law allows LEAs to choose to include a comprehensive sex education program if the LEA follows certain requirements before offering the program. Specifies the criteria for CSH Ed. programs in LEAs, including specifying that instruction and instructional materials must be age-appropriate, and that information on sexually transmitted diseases and the value of abstinence must be provided. Provides that LEAs may choose to offer age-appropriate and medically-accurate information via CSH Ed. earlier than seventh grade. Requires that the instruction and materials used in CSH Ed. are to be free of bias based on sex, ethnicity, national origin, religion, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, or mental or physical disability. Revises and expands the guidelines for including HIV/AIDS prevention education, specifying that all students in grades seven through twelve receive this instruction at least once in junior or middle school and at least once in high school. Deletes the requirement that LEAs must provide parents and legal guardians with an opportunity to consent to students' participation in CSH Ed. programs but retains the requirement that LEAs must provide parents and legal guardians with opportunities to withhold consent for students' participation in the programs. Adds new requirement that the State Board of Education develop objectives for instruction in the awareness of sexual assault and abuse and specifies the content for the curriculum, textbooks, and materials for the program. Provides guidelines regarding enforcement and noncompliance with GS 115C-81(e1). Makes conforming and technical changes. Effective July 1, 2007, and applies beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

Intro. by Fisher, Coleman, Jeffus, Goodwin. GS 115C

May 2, 2007

H 879. MODIFY SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM. Filed 3/16/07. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Modifies GS 115C-81(e1) to add definitions that apply to the provision and to clarify the duties of the State Board of Education and local school administrative units. Clarifies that there is to be an abstinence-based comprehensive sexual health education program component (was, abstinence until marriage program) of the comprehensive school health education program. Removes the requirement that local education agencies (LEAs) provide age-appropriate instruction in comprehensive sexual health education in grades seven to twelve inclusive. Provides that students receive instruction in junior high or middle school and again in high school regarding HIV/AIDS prevention. Deletes enforcement provisions regarding noncompliance with the educational objectives of the act. Clarifies that any required notice to parents is also required to be made to legal guardians where applicable. Makes the provisions of the act applicable beginning with the 2008-09 school year (was, 2007-08).