2 3 (By Delegate Craig) [Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the 4 5 Committee on Education. 6 7 8 9 10 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to required courses of instruction 11 in the public schools; including the subject of physics as a 12 required course for graduation; and providing misdemeanor 13 14 penalties. 15 Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: That \$18-2-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, 16 17 be amended and reenacted to read as follows: 18 ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. 19 §18-2-9. Required courses of instruction; violation and penalty. 20 (a) In all public, private, parochial and denominational 21 schools located within this state, there shall be given prior to 22 the completion of the eighth grade at least one year of instruction 23 in the history of the State of West Virginia. The schools shall 24 require regular courses of instruction by the completion of the

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1 twelfth grade in the history of the United States, in civics, in 2 the Constitution of the United States, and in the government of the 3 State of West Virginia for the purpose of teaching, fostering and 4 perpetuating the ideals, principles and spirit of political and 5 economic democracy in America and increasing the knowledge of the 6 organization and machinery of the government of the United States 7 and of the State of West Virginia. The state board shall, with the 8 advice of the state superintendent, prescribe the courses of study 9 covering these subjects for the public schools. It shall be is the 10 duty of the officials or boards having authority over the 11 respective private, parochial and denominational schools to 12 prescribe courses of study for the schools under their control and 13 supervision similar to those required for the public schools. 14 further such study, every high school student eligible by age for 15 voter registration shall be afforded the opportunity to register to 16 vote pursuant to section twenty-two, article two, chapter three of 17 this code.

- 18 <u>(b) The state board shall require all of the public secondary</u>
 19 <u>schools in this state to teach the subject of physics as a required</u>
 20 course for graduation.
- 21 (b) (c) The state board shall cause to be taught in require
 22 all of the public schools of this state to teach the subject of
 23 health education, including instruction in any of the grades six
 24 through twelve as considered appropriate by the county board, on:

1 (1) The prevention, transmission and spread of acquired immune 2 deficiency syndrome and other sexually transmitted diseases; (2) 3 substance abuse, including the nature of alcoholic drinks and 4 narcotics, tobacco products, and other potentially harmful drugs, 5 with special instruction as to their effect upon the human system 6 and upon society in general; (3) the importance of healthy eating 7 and physical activity to maintaining healthy weight; and (4) 8 education concerning CPR and First Aid. The course curriculum 9 requirements and materials for the instruction shall be adopted by 10 the state board by rule in consultation with the Department of 11 Health and Human Resources. The state board shall prescribe a 12 standardized health education assessment to be administered within 13 health education classes to measure student health knowledge and 14 program effectiveness.

An opportunity shall be afforded to the parent or guardian of a child subject to instruction in the prevention, transmission and 17 spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually 18 transmitted diseases to examine the course curriculum requirements 19 and materials to be used in the instruction. The parent or 20 guardian may exempt the child from participation in the instruction 21 by giving notice to that effect in writing to the school principal.

22 (d) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall 23 be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be 24 fined not exceeding \$10 for each violation, and each week during

- 1 which there is a violation shall constitute a separate offense. If
- 2 the this convicted person so convicted occupy occupies a public
- 3 school position, in connection with the public schools, that person
- 4 shall automatically be the person shall be removed from that
- 5 position and shall be ineligible for reappointment to that or a
- 6 similar position for the period of one year.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the teaching of physics in all public secondary schools of this state as a required course for graduation.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.