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**H. B. 2848**

(By Delegates Rohrbach, Stansbury, Perdue, Campbell, Hornbuckle,  
Pasdon, Moye, Sobonya, Miller and Statler)

[Introduced February 20, 2015; referred to the  
Committee on Education.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-7b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to drug awareness education in schools; requiring the Board of Education to implement a comprehensive drug awareness program in grades K through 12.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §18-2-7b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**§18-2-7b. Programs in drug prevention and violence reduction.**

(a) In order for the schools to become healthy learning environments and to provide a strong defense against drug use and violence, the state Board of Education shall prescribe programs within the existing health and physical education program which teach resistance and life skills to counteract societal and peer pressure to use drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and shall include counselors, teachers and staff in full implementation of the program. The board shall also prescribe programs to coordinate violence reduction efforts in schools and between schools and their

1 communities and to train students, teachers, counselors and staff in conflict resolution skills. The  
2 program shall be comprehensive, interdisciplinary and shall begin in elementary school. The state  
3 board shall report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on education accountability on the status  
4 of the programs no later than July 1, 1995.

5 (b) For academic years beginning after July 1, 2015, the board shall implement a  
6 comprehensive drug awareness program, requiring students in grades K through 12 to receive  
7 comprehensive instruction regarding the dangers of drug, alcohol and tobacco use. The program may  
8 be implemented through or in association with the statewide D.A.R.E. program or a similar program.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Board of Education to implement a comprehensive drug awareness program in grades K through 12.

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