

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Originating

House Bill 4731

(BY DELEGATES ROHRBACH, COOPER, ROWAN,
HORNBUCKLE, PERDUE, AMBLER, HICKS, ROMINE, D.
EVANS, ELLINGTON AND BLACKWELL)

[Originating in the Committee on Education;

February 24, 2016.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated section §18-2-7b, relating to requiring comprehensive drug awareness and
3 prevention program in all public schools; requiring county boards to implement no later
4 than 2016-2017 school year; specifying purposes of program; requiring county boards to
5 coordinate delivery of instruction to meet program purposes with educators, drug
6 rehabilitation specialists and law enforcement agencies; and requiring instruction relating
7 to interactions with law enforcement officers.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
2 section, designated section §18-2-7b, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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

1 In order for the schools to become healthy learning environments and to provide a strong
2 defense against drug use and violence, the state Board of Education shall prescribe programs
3 within the existing health and physical education program which teach resistance and life skills to
4 counteract societal and peer pressure to use drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and shall include
5 counselors, teachers and staff in full implementation of the program. The board shall also
6 prescribe programs to coordinate violence reduction efforts in schools and between schools and
7 their communities and to train students, teachers, counselors and staff in conflict resolution skills.
8 The program shall be comprehensive, interdisciplinary and shall begin in elementary school. ~~The~~
9 ~~state board shall report to the Legislative Oversight commission on education accountability on~~
10 ~~the status of the programs no later than July 1, 1995.~~

11 (b) No later than the start of the 2016-2017 school year, each county board shall
12 implement comprehensive drug awareness and prevention programs for all students in grades K
13 through 12 to receive instruction regarding the dangers of substance abuse. The purposes of the
14 drug awareness and prevention program are to:

- 15 (1) Keep students from illegally using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs;
16 (2) Reduce or eliminate the incidence and prevalence of student's alcohol, tobacco and
17 other drug abuse;
18 (3) Reduce the factors that place students at risk of abusing alcohol, tobacco or other
19 drugs through school and a community based planning processes;
20 (4) Contribute to the development of school environments and alternative activities that
21 are alcohol, tobacco and drug-free;
22 (5) Increase the knowledge and skills of students, staff and community members for
23 avoiding the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and drug use, and of blood borne pathogens; and
24 (6) Actively involve staff, students, parents and community members in the development
25 and implementation of the drug awareness and prevention program plans.
26 (c) The county board shall coordinate the delivery of instruction to meet the purposes of
27 subsection (b) of this section with, including but not limited to, educators, drug rehabilitation
28 specialists and law-enforcement agencies to periodically provide opportunities for those agencies
29 to provide age appropriate student education on their experiences with the impacts of illegal
30 alcohol and drug use. Further, the program is to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of
31 the risks to, duties of, and likely actions by law-enforcement officers when conducting
32 investigations. The instruction shall include how to respond to an officer during a vehicular or
33 other stop or police interaction, including problematic or dangerous action and behaviors that
34 could result in a person being detained or arrested.

NOTE: This bill requires county board of education to implement comprehensive drug awareness and prevention programs for all student in grades K through 12. The programs are to provide instruction regarding the dangers of substance abuse and must be coordinated with drug rehabilitation specialists and law-enforcement agencies to periodically provide them opportunities for age appropriate student education on the impacts of illegal alcohol and drug use.

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