

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2195

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[Originating in the Committee on Education; March
24, 2017]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-7b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to requiring comprehensive drug awareness and prevention program in all public schools;
3 requiring county boards to implement no later than 2018-2019 school year; specifying
4 purposes of program; requiring county boards to coordinate delivery of instruction to meet
5 program purposes with educators, drug rehabilitation specialists and law-enforcement
6 agencies; requiring instruction relating to interactions with law-enforcement officers; and
7 requiring instruction in any of the grades six through twelve in the subject of health on
8 dangers, and addictive nature of opioid use and safer alternatives to treat pain.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

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

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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

1 (a) In order for the schools to become healthy learning environments and to provide a
2 strong defense against drug use and violence, the State Board of Education shall prescribe
3 programs within the existing health and physical education program which teach resistance and
4 life skills to counteract societal and peer pressure to use drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and shall
5 include 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 2018-2019 school year, a county board shall implement
12 comprehensive drug awareness and prevention programs for students in grades K through 12 to

13 receive instruction regarding the dangers of substance abuse. The purpose of the drug awareness
14 and prevention program is 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;

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 (7) Facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the risks to, duties of, and likely actions
27 by law-enforcement officers when conducting investigations; and

28 (8) Instruct how to respond to an officer during a vehicular or other stop or police
29 interaction, including problematic or dangerous action and behaviors that could result in a person
30 being detained or arrested.

31 (c) The county board shall coordinate the delivery of instruction to meet the purposes of
32 subsection (b) of this section with educators, drug rehabilitation specialists and law-enforcement
33 agencies to periodically provide age appropriate student education on their experiences with the
34 impacts of illegal alcohol and drug use.

35 (d) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, instruction required pursuant to section
36 nine of this article in the subject of health education in any of the grades six through twelve as
37 considered appropriate by the county board shall include at least sixty minutes of instruction for

- 38 each student on the dangers of opioid use, the additive characteristics of opioids, and safer
39 alternatives to treat pain.

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