WEST virginia legislature

2022 regular session

Introduced

Senate Bill 704

By Senators Grady, Rucker, Karnes, Sypolt, Tarr, Roberts, Smith, Maroney, and Martin

[Introduced February 21, 2022; referred   
to the Committee on Education]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-5-27, relating to requiring each classroom teacher to comply with any request by a parent, grandparent, or guardian to inspect any instructional materials and books in the classroom that are available for students to read; requiring, as part of the inspection and upon request of the parent, grandparent, or guardian, that the classroom teacher demonstrate how the supplementary instructional material relates to the content standards adopted by the State Board of Education; requiring the classroom teacher to include any book or books students will be required to read on a class syllabus by the first day of the course; requiring the syllabus to be made available to the parent, grandparent, or guardian upon request; allowing any parent, grandparent, or guardian to file a complaint with the county superintendent if the classroom teacher fails to comply with this new section and then, with the state superintendent, if the complaint is not resolved by the county superintendent within seven days; and requiring a report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on the number of complaints filed.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-5-27. Parental right to inspect supplementary instructional materials; listing books on syllabus; right to file complaint.

(a) Each classroom teacher shall comply with the request of any parent, grandparent, or guardian to inspect instructional materials adopted by the county board pursuant to §18-2A-10 of this code, supplementary instructional materials that were not adopted by the county board pursuant to §18-2A-10 of this code, and books in the classroom that are available for students to read, subject to the following:

(1) Only the parent, grandparent, or guardian of a child enrolled in the class may make a request pursuant to this section;

(2) The classroom teacher may require that the parent, grandparent, or guardian schedule an appointment in order to inspect the supplementary instructional materials. If the classroom teacher requires an appointment pursuant to this subdivision, the teacher shall schedule the appointment within 10 business days of the request of the parent, grandparent, or guardian; and

(3) As part of the inspection and upon request of the parent, grandparent, or guardian, the classroom teacher shall demonstrate how the supplementary instructional material relates to the content standards adopted by the state board.

(b) For any class in which reading a book or books will be required, the classroom teacher shall include the book or books on a class syllabus by the first day of the course. The classroom teacher shall make the syllabus available to any parent, grandparent, or guardian of a child enrolled in the class upon request.

(c) Any parent, grandparent, or guardian may file a complaint with the county superintendent, upon a form developed and provided by the county superintendent, if the classroom teacher fails to comply with any provision of this section. If the complaint is not resolved by the county superintendent within seven business days, the parent, grandparent, or guardian may file a complaint with the state superintendent or designee. The state superintendent shall make a form available for parents to file a complaint pursuant to this subsection. The state superintendent, annually by October 1, shall report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability the number of complaints filed during the previous school year. The report shall include the number of complaints filed statewide and by county.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require each classroom teacher to comply with the request of any parent, grandparent, or guardian to inspect instructional materials and books in the classroom that are available for students to read.

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