

Bill Content

HR #

A BILL

To *This should be a short synopsis of the bill, no more than a sentence, that quickly describes what this bill is all about.*

- 1 Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in
- 2 Congress assembled, that this bill may be cited as the (*last words should be your bill title,*
- 3 *ending with the word Act, as in the National Drunk Driving Act.*)

4

Section 1. Findings

This section is a summary of your research. It is not just a simple listing of facts and figures but a logical argument that uses your research to convince us that this is a serious problem and needs to be solved.

Section 2. Overview

This section answers the question what will this bill do? How do you propose to solve the problem you explained in Section 1?

Section 3. Eligibility

Who or what will this bill effect? If you are creating a new government program, who will be eligible?

Section 4. Administration

What government department or agency will carry out and/or enforce the provisions of this bill? Remember--you are making the law, but the Executive Branch will carry it out. You need to identify the department, agency, or bureau which will enforce your law.

Section 5. Penalties

If you are writing a proposed criminal law you must explain the penalties for noncompliance--i.e., if someone breaks your new law what will be the penalty? Also, who will be charged with enforcing the penalties?

Section 6. Funding

ALL bills require funding. How much will the proposals in your bill cost? Where will you get the money? Will you raise taxes? Or will you cut other programs to pay for yours? If so, how much, when, and from where?

Section 7. Date

When will this bill go into effect?

Section 8. Signature

Be sure to sign your bill to make it official

- 1 (6) Roughly 50 percent of students in grades 7 through 12 indicated in surveys
2 that they needed more comprehensive information about contraception and
3 other healthy sexual practices than was offered in their current sex education
4 classes.
- 5 (7) Abstinence-only sex education programs withhold valuable information
6 about contraception from uninformed youth and ask educators to cite
7 abstinence as the *only* means of protection from pregnancy and STDs. Along
8 the lines of abstinence-only education that U.S. public schools have been
9 exclusive to since 1996, teachers that have answered questions about
10 contraception from their students have been censured in many cases.
- 11 (8) 50 percent of reported AIDS cases in June 2000 pertained to Black youths
12 and 30 percent to Hispanic youths, while these populations comprise only 16
13 and 13 percent of the U.S. population, respectively. Birth rates for African
14 American and Hispanic teens are considerably higher than those for non-
15 Hispanic whites, Asians and Pacific islanders, and Native Americans.
- 16 (9) State matching requirements siphoned money that state programs before
17 had dedicated to comprehensive sex education, for reallocation to abstinence-
18 only programs.
- 19 (10) The expressed need on the part of the American public and American
20 adolescent public school students for a more comprehensive approach to sex
21 education indicates that more funding should be given to public schools to
22 effect this change
- 23 (11) Comprehensive sex education would be more likely to address the diverse
24 values of American adolescents of different backgrounds. Aside from
25 acknowledging a diversity in the religious backgrounds and moral upbringing,
26 comprehensive sex education would present the full range of alternatives
27 students of ethnically and culturally diverse students have in avoiding
28 pregnancy and STDs.

29 Section 2. Content

30 This bill will result in the re-allocation of \$1,000,000 of funding for abstinence-
31 only sex education in public schools, to comprehensive sex education programs that

1 inform students of alternative methods of contraception and STD prevention in addition
2 to the current agenda of promoting abstinence as the only sure way to avoid pregnancy
3 and STDs. Matching requirements previously imposed on the states for the benefit of
4 abstinence-only programs will be rescinded and the money devoted to comprehensive sex
5 education.

6 Section 3. Eligibility

7 This bill will affect all adolescents in public middle and high schools and enrolled
8 in Family Life Education programs by the school year 2004.

9 Section 4. Administration

10 The Department of Health and Human Services shall have administrative
11 jurisdiction.

12 Section 5. Penalties

13 Should the sex education curriculum and programs of a middle or high school be
14 found by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to be in noncompliance with this
15 bill, a warning and reminder will be issued to the school for the end of the semester or
16 school year following the issuance of the warning. The offending school will lose
17 eligibility for the funding provided by this bill, if it is found still to be in noncompliance
18 with its conditions by the expiration of the warning at the end of that semester or school
19 year.

20 Section 6. Funding

21 All required funding shall be taken from the annual \$100,000,000 originally
22 reserved for abstinence-only sex education for the fiscal years 2002 to 2006.

23 Section 7. Effective Date

24 Public school sex education programs receiving federal aid from the United States
25 must be found in compliance to this bill not later than February 1, 2004.

26 Section 8. Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. W. ...", is written below the signature section header.