

AN ACT

relating to a parenting and paternity awareness component of the high school health curriculum.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (p) to read as follows:

(p) The State Board of Education, in conjunction with the office of the attorney general, shall develop a parenting and paternity awareness program that a school district shall use in the district's high school health curriculum. The program must:

(1) address parenting skills and responsibilities, including child support and other legal rights and responsibilities that come with parenthood;

(2) address relationship skills, including money management, communication skills, and marriage preparation; and

(3) in district high schools that do not have a family violence prevention program, address skills relating to the prevention of family violence.

SECTION 2. (a) Not later than May 1, 2008, the State Board of Education shall develop a parenting and paternity awareness program as provided by Section 28.002(p), Education Code, as added by this Act.

(b) A school district shall use the parenting and paternity awareness program developed by the State Board of Education as

H.B. No. 2176

1 provided by Section 28.002(p), Education Code, as added by this
2 Act, beginning with the 2008-2009 school year.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

David Dewhurst

President of the Senate

Jim Caddick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2176 was passed by the House on April 19, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2176 was passed by the Senate on May 11, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 2.

Patricia Spaw
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
8:30 AM 'CLOCK
MAY 26 2007

Roger Williams
Secretary of State



OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM
STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
MESSAGE

I am allowing House Bill No 2176 to become law without my signature. The underlying purpose of the bill is to ensure that high school students are taught about responsible parenthood and encourage involvement of fathers in the formation of strong, stable families. These goals are worthy of attention in high school health classes.

However, I have serious concerns about the legislature mandating programs be included in the Texas curriculum. The State Board of Education is the appropriate body to make determinations about specific curriculum components. Additionally, it is always my preference to focus on preserving a high quality core curriculum that focuses on college and workforce readiness.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I
have signed my name officially
and caused the Seal of the State
to be affixed hereto at Austin,
this 26th day of May, 2007

Rick Perry
RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY

Roger Williams

ROGER WILLIAMS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

8:30pm O'CLOCK

MAY 26 2007