

SENATE BILL NO. 2311

Introduced by

Senators Heckaman, K. Roers

Representatives Buffalo, Devlin, Vigesaa

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-21-24 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~
2 ~~relating to mental health awareness and suicide prevention instruction for students in grades~~
3 ~~seven through twelve.~~ for an Act to provide for a review of North Dakota health education
4 content standards and curriculum; and to provide for a legislative management report.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 ~~— **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-24 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
7 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

8 ~~— **15.1-21-24. Health and wellness curriculum – Content.**~~

9 ~~— Beginning July 1, 2012, each school district and nonpublic school shall ensure that the:~~

10 ~~— 1. The portion of its health curriculum which is related to sexual health includes~~
11 ~~instruction pertaining to the risks associated with adolescent sexual activity and the~~
12 ~~social, psychological, and physical health gains to be realized by abstaining from~~
13 ~~sexual activity before and outside of marriage; and~~

14 ~~— 2. The district or nonpublic school's health curriculum for all students in grades seven~~
15 ~~through twelve includes instruction in mental health awareness and suicide prevention,~~
16 ~~including instruction and information on identifying warning signs and risk factors,~~
17 ~~identifying at risk peers, and the availability of resources. To satisfy the requirements~~
18 ~~of this subsection, a district or nonpublic school may collaborate with other districts~~
19 ~~and nonpublic schools to share resources and provide the instruction through distance~~
20 ~~or virtual learning.~~

21 **SECTION 1. SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW OF HEALTH EDUCATION CONTENTS**
22 **STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** During the
23 2021-22 interim, the superintendent of public instruction shall review the North Dakota health
24 education content standards and curriculum for students enrolled in kindergarten through grade

1 twelve to ensure the age-appropriate content standards and curriculum are current and reflect
2 best practices, including a review of mental health awareness and suicide prevention with a
3 focus on identifiable warning signs and risk factors, and identifying at-risk peers. Before July 1,
4 2022, the superintendent of public instruction shall report the findings and recommendations of
5 the review to the legislative management.