HB496
150869-1
By Representative Todd
RFD: Education Policy
First Read: 02-APR-13
SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, there are certain minimum contents which are included in a sex education program or curriculum.

This bill would remove from the minimum contents the emphasis that homosexuality is not an acceptable lifestyle and the emphasis that homosexual conduct is a criminal act.

This bill would also require that all material taught be done in a culturally sensitive manner.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Section 16-40A-2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the minimum contents that are included in a sex education program or curriculum; to remove from the minimum contents the emphasis that homosexuality is not an acceptable lifestyle and the emphasis that homosexual conduct is a
criminal act; and to require that all material taught be done
in a culturally sensitive manner.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 16-40A-2, Code of Alabama 1975,
is amended to read as follows:

"§16-40A-2.

"(a) Any program or curriculum in the public schools
in Alabama that includes sex education or the human
reproductive process shall, as a minimum, include and
emphasize the following:

"(1) Abstinence from sexual intercourse sex is the
only completely effective protection against unwanted
pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune
deficiency syndrome (AIDS) when transmitted sexually.

"(2) Abstinence from sexual intercourse sex outside
of lawful marriage is the expected social standard for
unmarried school-age persons.

"(b) Course materials and instruction that relate to
sexual education or sexually transmitted diseases should be
age-appropriate and culturally sensitive.

"(c) Course materials and instruction that relate to
sexual education or sexually transmitted diseases should
include all of the following elements:

"(1) An emphasis on sexual abstinence as the only
completely reliable method of avoiding unwanted teenage
pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
"(2) An emphasis on the importance of self-control and ethical conduct pertaining to sexual behavior.

"(3) Statistics based on the latest medical information that indicate the degree of reliability and unreliability of various forms of contraception, while also emphasizing the increase in protection against pregnancy and protection against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS infection, which is afforded by the use of various contraceptive measures.

"(4) Information concerning the laws relating to the financial responsibilities associated with pregnancy, childbirth, and child rearing.

"(5) Information concerning the laws prohibiting sexual abuse, the need to report such abuse, and the legal options available to victims of sexual abuse.

"(6) Information on how to cope with and rebuff unwanted physical and verbal sexual exploitation by other persons.

"(7) Psychologically sound methods of resisting unwanted peer pressure.

"(8) An emphasis, in a factual manner and from a public health perspective, that homosexuality is not a lifestyle acceptable to the general public and that homosexual conduct is a criminal offense under the laws of the state.

"(9) Comprehensive instruction in parenting skills and responsibilities, including the responsibility to pay child support by non-custodial parents, the penalties for
non-payment of child support, and the legal and ethical
responsibilities of child care and child rearing."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
first day of the third month following its passage and
approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.