

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** CS/HB 259 Comprehensive Health Education  
**SPONSOR(S):** PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee, Williams and Plasencia  
**TIED BILLS:** None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 982

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N, As CS	D'Souza	Guy
2) PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee	10 Y, 0 N	Seifert	Potvin
3) Education Committee	15 Y, 0 N	D'Souza	Hassell

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill revises the required comprehensive health education curriculum for K-12 public schools to include instruction on the dangers and signs of human trafficking and techniques to recognize and respond to child abuse.

With parental consent, a student may opt out of portions of comprehensive health education.

The bill may have a fiscal impact to school districts but the impact is indeterminate. See fiscal comments.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2019.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### **Present Situation**

Health education is included in the required instruction to ensure that students meet Florida State Board of Education (SBE) adopted standards.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to s. 1003.42(2)(n), F.S., comprehensive health education addresses concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; injury prevention and safety; internet safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use and abuse.

##### *Human Trafficking*

Information on human trafficking is not included in required comprehensive health education instruction. Additionally, State Board of Education (SBE) standards do not include instruction on human trafficking, nor is there an instructional model currently available in CPALMS.<sup>2</sup>

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) provides ongoing information on human trafficking training and resources for all school personnel via webinars, professional development events, and in-person trainings.<sup>3</sup> The following school districts piloted human trafficking education lessons that were integrated in health education during the 2017-18 school year: Brevard, Broward, Miami-Dade, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach, and Pinellas Counties.

Since 2018, 22 school districts include human trafficking material in comprehensive health education. They are: Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Collier, Miami-Dade, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Hernando, Hillsborough, Leon, Manatee, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Putnam, Suwanee, Volusia, and Washington Counties.

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) provides regional training for school personnel.<sup>4</sup>

##### *Child Abuse*

As defined by Florida law<sup>5</sup>, child abuse means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. School teachers and other school personnel are required by law<sup>6</sup> to report known or suspected child abuse.

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 1003.42(1), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> CPALMS. About CPALMS, available at [http://www.cpalms.org/CPALMS/about\\_us.aspx](http://www.cpalms.org/CPALMS/about_us.aspx), (last visited Feb 27, 2019). CPALMS is the State of Florida's official source for standards information and course descriptions. It provides access to thousands of standards-aligned, free, and high-quality instructional/educational resources that have been developed specifically for the standards and vetted through a rigorous review process.

<sup>3</sup> Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, Annual Report 2018, (Jan. 18, 2019), available at [http://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/MVIS-B8JT3C/\\$file/HTAnnualReport2018Web.pdf](http://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/MVIS-B8JT3C/$file/HTAnnualReport2018Web.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Florida Department of Children and Families, Sex Trafficking in Florida's Schools, <http://www.myflfamilies.com/event/sex-trafficking-floridas-schools> (last visited March 13, 2019).

<sup>5</sup> Section 39.01(2), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 39.201(1), F.S.

Child abuse awareness is not included in required comprehensive health education instruction. The DOE provides child abuse prevention training materials and resources on their website.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, the DCF provides a training course for teachers in grades 1 through 12.<sup>8</sup>

### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The bill requires that health education curriculum include the following:

- techniques for students and teachers to recognize and respond to child abuse, and
- the dangers and warning signs of human trafficking.

Additionally, the bill allows a student to opt out of portions of comprehensive health education upon a written request from his or her parent to the school principal.

#### **B. SECTION DIRECTORY:**

**Section 1.** Amends section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, revising the required health education in public schools to include information regarding human trafficking and child abuse.

**Section 2.** Amends section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, authorizing a student to opt out of a specified portion of comprehensive health education under certain circumstances.

**Section 3.** Provides and effective date of July 1, 2019.

## **II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

#### **A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

#### **B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

#### **C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

None.

---

<sup>7</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Child Abuse Prevention*, <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/child-abuse-prevention.stml> (last visited March 15, 2019).

<sup>8</sup> Florida Department of Children and Families, *Training*, <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline/training> (last visited March 15, 2019).

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

For those school districts that do not already provide human trafficking and child abuse awareness instruction, there may be a cost associated with including this instruction in the required health education curriculum. The cost is indeterminate.

**III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**

Not applicable.