

## HB 2232 -- Sexual Education and Pregnancy Prevention

Sponsor: Low

This bill changes the laws regarding sexual education, sexually transmitted infection therapies, pregnancy prevention, and the dispensing of prescriptions by pharmacies.

### SEXUAL EDUCATION

The bill requires any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases to be based on peer reviewed projects that have been demonstrated to influence healthy behavior, be age appropriate, and must:

- (1) Show abstinence from sexual activity as the only sure way to avoid pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections;
- (2) Present students with the latest information on the benefits and side effects of all contraceptives and barrier methods as a means to prevent pregnancy and reduce the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections and other diseases;
- (3) Provide information regarding the vaccine for human papillomavirus;
- (4) Encourage communication about sexuality between parents and their children;
- (5) Help young people gain knowledge about the physical, biological, and hormonal changes of adolescence, the transitions in human maturity, and responsible decision making regarding sexuality and drug and alcohol use;
- (6) Help students develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and stress management in order to make healthy decisions about sexuality and relationships; and
- (7) Teach students about the dangers of sexual predators including online predators and how to behave responsibly and remain safe on the Internet and about the consequences of inappropriate text messaging.

The bill repeals the provision which prohibits a school district or charter school from providing abortion services and an abortion provider from furnishing human sexuality instruction and curriculum. Each school district or charter school must make all curriculum material and the names and affiliations of presenters used in the school's instruction available for public inspection prior to its use.

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION THERAPIES

Licensed physicians are allowed to use expedited partner therapy under certain conditions by dispensing and prescribing medications for partners of persons diagnosed with certain sexually transmitted infections even when there is no existing physician/patient relationship. Immunity from civil liability is given to any licensed physician using expedited partner therapy unless the action is negligent, reckless, in bad faith, or with malicious purpose.

## BIRTH CONTROL PROTECTION ACT

The Birth Control Protection Act is established and specifies that the General Assembly finds that consenting individuals have a protected interest in freedom from unreasonable governmental intrusions into their private lives when obtaining and using safe and effective methods of contraception. No governmental actor or entity will be authorized to interfere in a consenting individual's right to obtain or use safe and effective methods of contraception or to interfere with or discriminate against those rights in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services, or information. Laws, rules, ordinances, taxes, or regulations that are reasonably designed to promote public health and safety in the sale and distribution of contraceptives and do not have the effect of unreasonably hindering public access to contraceptives are not affected by the bill.

## DISPENSING PRESCRIPTIONS BY PHARMACIES

The bill requires a licensed pharmacy to dispense a prescribed drug or device in stock without delay and in a manner that is consistent with the normal time frame for filling any other prescription. If the prescribed drug or device is not in stock, the pharmacy must use standard procedures for expedited ordering to fulfill the prescription or locate another pharmacy of the customer's choice and transfer the prescription. The pharmacy must carry out the customer's chosen option in a timely fashion. A pharmacy cannot intimidate, threaten, or harass a customer during the delivery of services. Over-the-counter contraceptive drug requests must also be fulfilled in a timely fashion.