

1 AN ACT relating to rights in public schools.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) *As used in this section:*

6 (a) *"External health care provider" means a provider of health or mental*  
7 *health services that is not employed by or contracted with the school district*  
8 *to provide services to the district's students;*

9 (b) *"Health services" has the same meaning as in KRS 156.502;*

10 (c) *"Mental health services" means services provided by a school-based mental*  
11 *health services provider as defined in KRS 158.4416 but shall not include*  
12 *academic or career counseling; and*

13 (d) *"Parent" means a person who has legal custody or control of the student*  
14 *such as a mother, father, or guardian.*

15 (2) *Upon a student's enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, the district*  
16 *shall provide a notification to the student's parents listing each of the health*  
17 *services and mental health services related to human sexuality, contraception, or*  
18 *family planning available at the student's school and of the parents' right to*  
19 *withhold consent or decline any of those specific services. A parent's consent to a*  
20 *health service or mental health service under this subsection shall not waive the*  
21 *parent's right to access the student's educational or health records held by the*  
22 *district or the notifications required under subsection (3) of this section.*

23 (3) *Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, as part of a school district's*  
24 *effort to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students, a*  
25 *school shall notify a student's parents if:*

26 (a) *The school changes the health services or mental health services related to*  
27 *human sexuality, contraception, or family planning that it provides, and*

1 shall obtain parental consent prior to providing health services or mental  
 2 health services to the student; or

3 (b) School personnel make a referral:

4 1. For the student to receive a school's health services or mental health  
 5 services; or

6 2. To an external health care provider, for which parental consent shall  
 7 be obtained prior to the referral being made.

8 (4) School districts and district personnel shall respect the rights of parents to make  
 9 decisions regarding the upbringing and control of the student through  
 10 procedures encouraging students to discuss mental or physical health or life  
 11 issues with their parents or through facilitating the discussion with their parents.

12 (5) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education or the Kentucky Department of  
 13 Education shall not require or recommend that a local school district keep  
 14 any student information confidential from a student's parents. A district or  
 15 school shall not adopt policies or procedures with the intent of keeping any  
 16 student information confidential from parents.

17 (b) The Kentucky Board of Education or the Kentucky Department of  
 18 Education shall not require or recommend policies or procedures for the  
 19 use of pronouns that do not conform to a student's biological sex as  
 20 indicated on the student's original, unedited birth certificate issued at the  
 21 time of birth pursuant to KRS 156.070(2)(g)2.

22 (c) A local school district shall not require school personnel or students to use  
 23 pronouns for students that do not conform to that particular student's  
 24 biological sex as referenced in paragraph (b) of this subsection.

25 (d) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a school district or district  
 26 personnel from withholding information from a parent if a reasonably  
 27 prudent person would believe, based on previous conduct and history, that

1 the disclosure would result in the child becoming a dependent child or an  
 2 abused or neglected child as defined in KRS 600.020. The fact that district  
 3 personnel withhold information from a parent under this subsection shall  
 4 not in itself constitute evidence of failure to report dependency, neglect, or  
 5 abuse to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services under KRS 620.030.

6 (6) Prior to a well-being questionnaire or assessment, or a health screening form  
 7 being given to a child for research purposes, a school district shall provide the  
 8 student's parent with access to review the material and shall obtain parental  
 9 consent. Parental consent shall not be a general consent to these assessments or  
 10 forms but shall be required for each assessment or form. A parent's refusal to  
 11 consent shall not be an indicator of having a belief regarding the topic of the  
 12 assessment or form.

13 (7) Nothing in this section shall:

14 (a) Prohibit a school district or the district's personnel from seeking or  
 15 providing emergency medical or mental health services for a student as  
 16 outlined in the district's policies; or

17 (b) Remove the duty to report pursuant to KRS 620.030 if district personnel has  
 18 reasonable cause to believe the child is a dependent child or an abused or  
 19 neglected child due to the risk of physical or emotional injury identified in  
 20 KRS 600.020(1)(a)2. or as otherwise provided in that statute.

21 → Section 2. KRS 158.1415 is amended to read as follows:

22 (1) If a school council or, if none exists, the principal adopts a curriculum for human  
 23 sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases, instruction shall include but not be  
 24 limited to the following content:

25 (a)~~(1)~~ Abstinance from sexual activity is the desirable goal for all school-age  
 26 children;

27 (b)~~(2)~~ Abstinance from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid

1 unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated  
2 health problems; ~~and~~

3 ~~(c)(3)~~ The best way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and other associated  
4 health problems is to establish a permanent mutually faithful monogamous  
5 relationship;

6 (d) A policy to respect parental rights by ensuring that:

7 1. Children in grade five (5) and below do not receive any instruction  
8 through curriculum or programs on human sexuality or sexually  
9 transmitted diseases; or

10 2. Any child, regardless of grade level, enrolled in the district does not  
11 receive any instruction or presentation that has a goal or purpose of  
12 students studying or exploring gender identity, gender expression, or  
13 sexual orientation; and

14 (e) A policy to notify a parent in advance and obtain the parent's written  
15 consent before the parent's child in grade six (6) or above receives any  
16 instruction through curriculum or programs on human sexuality or  
17 sexually transmitted diseases authorized in this section.

18 (2) Any course, curriculum, or program offered by a public school on the subject of  
19 human sexuality provided by school personnel or by third parties authorized by  
20 the school shall:

21 (a) Provide an alternative course, curriculum, or program without any penalty  
22 to the student's grade or standing for students whose parents have not  
23 provided written consent as required in subsection (1)(e) of this section;

24 (b) Be subject to an inspection by parents of participating students that allows  
25 parents to review the following materials:

26 1. Curriculum;

27 2. Instructional materials;

- 1           3. Lesson plans;  
 2           4. Assessments or tests;  
 3           5. Surveys or questionnaires;  
 4           6. Assignments; and  
 5           7. Instructional activities;

6           (c) Be developmentally appropriate; and

7           (d) Be limited to a curriculum that has been subject to the reasonable review  
 8           and response by stakeholders in conformity with this subsection and KRS  
 9           160.345(2).

10       (3) A public school offering any course, curriculum, or program on the subject of  
 11       human sexuality shall provide written notification to the parents of a student at  
 12       least two (2) weeks prior to the student's planned participation in the course,  
 13       curriculum, or program. The written notification shall:

14       (a) Inform the parents of the provisions of subsection (2) of this section;

15       (b) Provide the date the course, curriculum, or program is scheduled to begin;

16       (c) Detail the process for a parent to review the materials outlined in subsection  
 17       (2) of this section;

18       (d) Explain the process for a parent to provide written consent for the student's  
 19       participation in the course, curriculum, or program; and

20       (e) Provide the contact information for the teacher or instructor of the course,  
 21       curriculum, or program and a school administrator designated with  
 22       oversight.

23       (4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit school personnel from:

24       (a) Discussing human sexuality, including the sexuality of any historic person,  
 25       group, or public figure, where the discussion provides necessary context in  
 26       relation to a topic of instruction from a curriculum approved pursuant to  
 27       KRS 160.345; or

1 (b) Responding to a question from a student during class regarding human  
 2 sexuality as it relates to a topic of instruction from a curriculum approved  
 3 pursuant to KRS 160.345.

4 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
 5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 (1) As used in this section:

7 (a) "Biological sex" means the physical condition of being male or female,  
 8 which is determined by a person's chromosomes, and is identified at birth by  
 9 a person's anatomy; and

10 (b) "School" means a school under the control of a local board of education or  
 11 a charter school board of directors.

12 (2) The General Assembly finds that:

13 (a) School personnel have a duty to protect the dignity, health, welfare, and  
 14 privacy rights of students in their care;

15 (b) Children and young adults have natural and normal concerns about privacy  
 16 while in various states of undress, and most wish for members of the  
 17 opposite biological sex not to be present in those circumstances;

18 (c) Allowing students to use restrooms, locker rooms, or shower rooms that are  
 19 reserved for students of a different biological sex:

20 1. Will create a significant potential for disruption of school activities  
 21 and unsafe conditions; and

22 2. Will create potential embarrassment, shame, and psychological injury  
 23 to students;

24 (d) Parents have a reasonable expectation that schools will not allow minor  
 25 children to be viewed in various states of undress by members of the  
 26 opposite biological sex, nor allow minor children to view members of the  
 27 opposite sex in various states of undress; and

1 (e) Schools have a duty to respect and protect the privacy rights of students,  
 2 including the right not to be compelled to undress or be unclothed in the  
 3 presence of members of the opposite biological sex.

4 (3) Each local board of education or charter school board of directors shall, after  
 5 allowing public comment on the issue at an open meeting, adopt policies  
 6 necessary to protect the privacy rights outlined in subsection (2) of this section  
 7 and enforce this subsection. Those policies shall, at a minimum, not allow  
 8 students to use restrooms, locker rooms, or shower rooms that are reserved for  
 9 students of a different biological sex.

10 (4) (a) A student who asserts to school officials that his or her gender is different  
 11 from his or her biological sex and whose parent or legal guardian provides  
 12 written consent to school officials shall be provided with the best available  
 13 accommodation, but that accommodation shall not include the use of school  
 14 restrooms, locker rooms, or shower rooms designated for use by students of  
 15 the opposite biological sex while students of the opposite biological sex are  
 16 present or could be present.

17 (b) Acceptable accommodations may include but are not limited to access to  
 18 single-stall restrooms or controlled use of faculty bathrooms, locker rooms,  
 19 or shower rooms.

20 ➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 311 IS CREATED TO  
 21 READ AS FOLLOWS:

22 (1) As used in this section:

23 (a) "Minor" means any person under the age of eighteen (18) years; and

24 (b) "Sex" means the biological indication of male and female as evidenced by  
 25 sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, gonads, and  
 26 nonambiguous internal and external genitalia present at birth.

27 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a health care provider shall

1 not, for the purpose of attempting to alter the appearance of, or to validate a  
 2 minor's perception of, the minor's sex, if that appearance or perception is  
 3 inconsistent with the minor's sex, knowingly:

4 (a) Prescribe or administer any drug to delay or stop normal puberty;

5 (b) Prescribe or administer testosterone, estrogen, or progesterone, in amounts  
 6 greater than would normally be produced endogenously in a healthy person  
 7 of the same age and sex;

8 (c) Perform any sterilizing surgery, including castration, hysterectomy,  
 9 oophorectomy, orchiectomy, penectomy, and vasectomy;

10 (d) Perform any surgery that artificially constructs tissue having the  
 11 appearance of genitalia differing from the minor's sex, including  
 12 metoidioplasty, phalloplasty, and vaginoplasty; or

13 (e) Remove any healthy or non-diseased body part or tissue.

14 (3) The prohibitions of subsection (2) this section shall not limit or restrict the  
 15 provision of services to:

16 (a) A minor born with a medically verifiable disorder of sex development,  
 17 including external biological sex characteristics that are irresolvably  
 18 ambiguous;

19 (b) A minor diagnosed with a disorder of sexual development, if a health care  
 20 provider has determined, through genetic or biochemical testing, that the  
 21 minor does not have a sex chromosome structure, sex steroid hormone  
 22 production, or sex steroid hormone action, that is normal for a biological  
 23 male or biological female; or

24 (c) A minor needing treatment for an infection, injury, disease, or disorder that  
 25 has been caused or exacerbated by any action or procedure prohibited by  
 26 subsection (2) of this section.

27 (4) If a licensing or certifying agency for health care providers finds, in accordance



1 with each agency's disciplinary and hearing process, that a health care provider  
 2 who is licensed or certified by the agency has violated subsection (2) of this  
 3 section, the agency shall revoke the health care provider's licensure or  
 4 certification.

5 (5) Any civil action to recover damages for injury suffered as a result of a violation  
 6 of subsection (2) of this section may be commenced before the later of:

7 (a) The date on which the person reaches the age of thirty (30) years; or

8 (b) Within three (3) years from the time the person discovered or reasonably  
 9 should have discovered that the injury or damages were caused by the  
 10 violation.

11 (6) If a health care provider has initiated a course of treatment, for a minor, that  
 12 includes the prescription or administration of any drug or hormone prohibited by  
 13 subsection (2) of this section and if the health care provider determines and  
 14 documents in the minor's medical record that immediately terminating the  
 15 minor's use of the drug or hormone would cause harm to the minor, the health  
 16 care provider may institute a period during which the minor's use of the drug or  
 17 hormone is systematically reduced.

18 ➔Section 5. Whereas situations currently exist in which the privacy rights of  
 19 students are violated, an emergency is declared to exist, and Sections 1 to 3 of this Act  
 20 take effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise  
 21 becoming a law.