

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

HOUSE JOINT  
RESOLUTION NO. 1078

By: Hamilton (Jeff)

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution requiring acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention education; providing for more specific requirements for such education; providing for applicable staff development for teachers and administrators; directing distribution; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 1476, which was passed in 1987 in the 1st Regular Session of the 41st Oklahoma Legislature, mandated acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention education to be taught in the public schools of this state; and

WHEREAS, such education may be provided at least once from grade five through grade six, is required to be provided at least once from grade seven through grade nine and at least once from grade ten through grade twelve; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma ranks twenty-seventh among the fifty states in total number of AIDS cases reported through 1993; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Oklahoma ranked third in the nation in the percentage increase of reported AIDS cases, which adds to any concern of a major epidemic being present in this state; and

WHEREAS, current Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) data suggests that Oklahoma youth are very much at risk for STDs, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and

WHEREAS, a study done in 1993 of in-state college freshman concluded that over seventy-six percent (76%) of these young people

had engaged in sexual intercourse, and forty percent (40%) had already had four or more sexual partners; and

WHEREAS, college students included in the study had also attended Oklahoma public schools from the years 1987 through 1992; the years immediately following mandatory AIDS education in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, young people, particularly adolescents, are vulnerable to HIV infection and AIDS, and until a cure or vaccine can be developed, education and prevention are the only hope for altering the course of the epidemic; and

WHEREAS, an education program, to be effective, must be of sufficient duration, and a one-hour lecture every three (3) years is inadequate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. The requirement of AIDS prevention education at least once from grade seven through grade nine and once from grade ten through grade twelve, and preferably at least once from grade five through grade six, include at a minimum, three (3) hours of instruction that present functional knowledge in a consistent, sequential manner.

SECTION 2. Public school teachers and administrators in grades five through twelve shall participate on an annual basis in an in-service training program related to AIDS prevention education. The training program shall be approved by the State Department of Education and the State Department of Health, and shall qualify towards staff development requirements for the participating teachers as provided in Section 6-158 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall distribute copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Commissioner of Health.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

44-2-8351

KSM