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H. B. 2824

(By Delegates J. Nelson, R Phillips, McGeehan, Longstreth, Blair,
Perdue, R. Smith, Folk and Moffatt)

[Introduced February 19, 2015; referred to the
Committee on Education.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, relating to required
courses of instruction in schools; and requiring the instruction in penmanship and writing in
cursive in all public, private, parochial and denominational schools located within this state.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §18-2-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted
to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-9. Required courses of instruction; violation and penalty.

(a) In all public, private, parochial and denominational schools located within this state, there
shall be given prior to the completion of the eighth grade at least one year of instruction in the history
of the State of West Virginia. The schools shall require regular courses of instruction by the
completion of the twelfth grade in the history of the United States, in civics, in the Constitution of
the United States, and in the government of the State of West Virginia for the purpose of teaching,
fostering and perpetuating the ideals, principles and spirit of political and economic democracy in

1 America and increasing the knowledge of the organization and machinery of the government of the
2 United States and of the State of West Virginia. The state board shall, with the advice of the state
3 superintendent, prescribe the courses of study covering these subjects for the public schools. The
4 state board shall require regular courses of instruction by the completion of the twelfth grade in
5 penmanship and writing in cursive. It shall be the duty of the officials or boards having authority
6 over the respective private, parochial and denominational schools to prescribe courses of study for
7 the schools under their control and supervision similar to those required for the public schools. To
8 further such study, every high school student eligible by age for voter registration shall be afforded
9 the opportunity to register to vote pursuant to section twenty-two, article two, chapter three of this
10 code.

11 (b) The state board shall cause to be taught in all of the public schools of this state the subject
12 of health education, including instruction in any of the grades six through twelve as considered
13 appropriate by the county board, on: (1) The prevention, transmission and spread of acquired
14 immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually transmitted diseases; (2) substance abuse, including
15 the nature of alcoholic drinks and narcotics, tobacco products, and other potentially harmful drugs,
16 with special instruction as to their effect upon the human system and upon society in general; (3) the
17 importance of healthy eating and physical activity to maintaining healthy weight; and (4) education
18 concerning CPR and First Aid. The course curriculum requirements and materials for the instruction
19 shall be adopted by the state board by rule in consultation with the Department of Health and Human
20 Resources. The state board shall prescribe a standardized health education assessment to be
21 administered within health education classes to measure student health knowledge and program
22 effectiveness.

1 An opportunity shall be afforded to the parent or guardian of a child subject to instruction
2 in the prevention, transmission and spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other
3 sexually transmitted diseases to examine the course curriculum requirements and materials to be
4 used in the instruction. The parent or guardian may exempt the child from participation in the
5 instruction by giving notice to that effect in writing to the school principal.

6 (c) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and,
7 upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not exceeding \$10 for each violation, and each week during
8 which there is a violation shall constitute a separate offense. If the person so convicted occupy a
9 position in connection with the public schools, that person shall automatically be removed from that
10 position and shall be ineligible for reappointment to that or a similar position for the period of one
11 year.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the instruction in penmanship and writing in cursive in all public, private, parochial and denominational schools located within this state.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.