

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2016 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2499**

**2015 Carryover**

(BY DELEGATE RODIGHIERO)

[Introduced January 13, 2016; referred to the  
Committee on Education then the Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
 2 to courses of instruction in all schools located within this state; and making available  
 3 elective courses on the history of the old and new testaments of the bible.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

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

**ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

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

1 (a) In all public, private, parochial and denominational schools located within this state,  
 2 there shall be given prior to the completion of the eighth grade at least one year of instruction in  
 3 the history of the State of West Virginia. The schools shall require regular courses of instruction  
 4 by the completion of the twelfth grade in the history of the United States, in civics, in the  
 5 Constitution of the United States, ~~and~~ in the government of the State of West Virginia for the  
 6 purpose of teaching, fostering and perpetuating the ideals, principles and spirit of political and  
 7 economic democracy in America and increasing the knowledge of the organization and machinery  
 8 of the government of the United States and of the State of West Virginia and making available,  
 9 as an elective course of instruction, the history of the old and new testaments of the bible. The  
 10 state board shall, with the advice of the state superintendent, prescribe the courses of study  
 11 covering these subjects for the public schools. It shall be the duty of the officials or boards having  
 12 authority over the respective private, parochial and denominational schools to prescribe courses  
 13 of study for the schools under their control and supervision similar to those required for the public  
 14 schools. To further such study, every high school student eligible by age for voter registration  
 15 shall be afforded the opportunity to register to vote pursuant to section twenty-two, article two,  
 16 chapter three of this code.

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

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

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

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make available elective courses of instruction in all schools located within this state on the history of the old and new testaments of the bible.

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