

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5277

By Delegate Holstein

[Introduced January 29, 2024; Referred to the
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section
 2 designated §18-2-9b, all relating to requiring all students enrolled in grades nine through
 3 twelve (9-12) to be provided with adoption awareness material upon request.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-9b. Adoption awareness materials.

1 (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, each public school in the state shall make
 2 available material on adoption awareness to students enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-
 3 12) at the public school and/or with the school counselor. Such public school shall require that the
 4 adoption awareness material required under this section is provided upon request by any student.

5 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop written standards and information relating
 6 to adoption awareness material required by this section.

7 (c) Adoption awareness material required by this section shall include without limitation:

8 (1) The benefits of adoption to society;

9 (2) The types of adoption available;

10 (3) The difference between adoption through the foster care system and private adoption;

11 (4) The reasons adoption is preferable to abortion;

12 (5) Public and private resources and agencies available to assist in the adoption process;

13 (6) Statistical data on abortion, adoption, and childbirth;

14 (7) Public and private resources available for pregnant mothers and parents enrolled in
 15 public school; and

16 (8) a description of child and human development.

17 (c) A public school shall provide any information provided to students under this section
 18 that is in written form to the parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to a
 19 pregnant student who is enrolled in the public school.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require all students enrolled in grades nine through

twelve (9-12) to be provided with adoption awareness material upon request.

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