

Sponsor: Tom Burch

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Department of Education to study issues related to personal safety education and sex education in public schools.

WHEREAS, the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior survey conducted by the University of Kentucky's Center for Prevention Research found that 54 percent of Kentucky high school students report having had sexual intercourse; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 42 percent of Kentucky high school students report being sexually active within the last three months prior to the survey; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 35 percent of Kentucky high school students report having multiple sexual partners; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 13 percent of Kentucky high school students report having no education about HIV or AIDS that they remember; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, the National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy reported that there were 12,670 pregnancies to Kentucky females between the ages of 15 and 19; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that Kentucky had 1,633 citizens living with AIDS; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that nationally, more than one-half of people ages 13 to 24 who are diagnosed with AIDS were exposed to the virus through sexual contact; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, the Kentucky Department for Public Health reported noticeable increases of chlamydia and gonorrhea in the 15 to 24-year-old age group; and

WHEREAS, evidence exists that a significant number of Kentucky high school students are engaging in sexual intercourse and that this sexual activity represents a significant risk to the health and well-being of Kentucky students; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Education does not have the information

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or data to report on the content or efficacy of the sex education and personal safety curricula of local school districts;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The Kentucky Department of Education shall survey all local school districts to collect data and information pertaining to the content and efficacy of sex education and personal safety curricula utilized in Kentucky public schools.

Section 2. The Kentucky Department of Education shall report its findings to the Legislative Research Commission and the co-chairs of the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare and the co-chairs of the Interim Joint Committee on Education no later than April 1, 2003. The report shall compare and contrast the content and efficacy of curricula used by Kentucky public schools relative to curricula used by schools in other states, and nationally recognized curricula standards.