

HOUSE BILL NO. 298

INTRODUCED BY E. GREEF

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCREASING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE; REQUIRING THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO DEVELOP AND MAKE AVAILABLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT CHOOSE TO USE THE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS; ALLOWING PARENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE MATERIALS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THEIR CHILDREN; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Child sexual abuse awareness and prevention education programs.**

(1) The office of public instruction, in collaboration with the department of public health and human services and organizations with expertise in child sexual abuse awareness and training, shall develop and maintain:

- (a) evidence-based model educational materials on child sexual abuse prevention; and
- (b) model school district policies and procedures for child sexual abuse response and reporting.

(2) No later than July 1, 2018, the office of public instruction shall make the materials and models available to assist elementary school districts with the implementation of:

- (a) child sexual abuse education programs; and
  - (b) child sexual abuse response and reporting policies.
- (3) The model educational materials developed under subsection (1)(a) may include the following topics:
- (a) warning signs of a child who is being sexually abused;
  - (b) basic principles of child sexual abuse prevention; and
  - (c) methods of student, teacher, and parental education and outreach.

(4) The model policies and procedures developed under subsection (1)(b) may include the following topics:

- (a) actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse may take to obtain assistance;
- (b) interventions;
- (c) counseling options;

1 (d) educational support available for a child who is a victim of sexual abuse to enable the child to develop  
2 the child's full educational potential; and

3 (e) reporting procedures.

4 (5) An elementary school district that chooses to use the model educational materials developed under  
5 subsection (1)(a) shall inform the parents or guardians of students in the grade levels in which the materials may  
6 be used that a parent or guardian may:

7 (a) examine and review the educational materials prior to the materials being used in the student's  
8 classroom; and

9 (b) request in writing that the student be excused from the classroom while the materials are being used.

10 (6) An elementary school district that chooses to use the model educational materials developed under  
11 subsection (1)(a) and that receives a request under subsection (4)(b) shall accommodate the request.

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13 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
14 integral part of Title 20, chapter 7, part 13, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 7, part 13, apply to [section 1].

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16 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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