

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 129**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Doherty, Holzapfel, Singer and Connors

SYNOPSIS

Opposes State Board of Education revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education on sex education adopted on June 3, 2020.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/8/2020)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** opposing the State Board of
2 Education revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards for
3 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education on sex education.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Parents, as their child's first and most important teachers,
6 work hard to instill values and beliefs that will guide their children
7 throughout life; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Even after a child undertakes formal education outside of
9 the home, parents continue to play a key role in the child's
10 education, with the parents providing valuable support and
11 guidance; and

12 **WHEREAS**, On June 3, 2020, the State Board of Education readopted
13 the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive
14 Health and Physical Education which include extensive changes to
15 the standards regarding sex education; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The revised standards include certain controversial topics
17 on various social issues that interfere with the right of parents to
18 teach their own children about these sensitive matters in a manner
19 that comports with their core family values and beliefs; and

20 **WHEREAS**, These revised standards further erode parental autonomy
21 by promoting age-inappropriate sexual content which usurps a
22 parent's ability to determine whether a child is emotionally and
23 intellectually prepared for instruction in sex education; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The Department of Education's response to criticism of the
25 standards is to note the availability of the opt-out provision, but the
26 opt-out provision is not a sufficient protection to ensure that a
27 student is not exposed inadvertently to graphic sexual lessons; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Any State policy governing instruction in sex education
29 must promote parental autonomy and respect for family values and
30 beliefs; now, therefore,

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32 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
33 *General Assembly concurring):*

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35 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey opposes the State
36 Board of Education's sex education standards included in the
37 revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive
38 Health and Physical Education due to the significant negative
39 impact that these standards have on a parent's right to educate his
40 child on sensitive sex education topics in a manner that comports
41 with the family's core values and beliefs. The Legislature calls
42 upon the State board to revise these standards.

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44 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
45 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
46 Secretary of the Senate to the New Jersey Department of Education
47 and the State Board of Education.

STATEMENT

This concurrent resolution opposes the State Board of Education revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education concerning sex education and calls upon the State board to revise these standards.

On June 3, 2020, the State Board of Education readopted the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education that contained significant changes regarding the standards for sex education, including the inclusion of certain controversial topics on various social issues. This concurrent resolution conveys the Legislature's objections to the new sex education standards due to the fact that they are both age-inappropriate and significantly interfere with and erode a parent's right to determine whether a child is emotionally and intellectually prepared for instruction in sex education and whether the instruction provided is appropriate and comports with core family values and beliefs.