

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum, so as to provide for instruction on  
3 the best practices for and risks associated with the use of tampons in a course of study in sex  
4 education and AIDS prevention instruction; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 31 of  
5 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding health, so  
6 as to encourage physicians and nurses providing a tampon for use by any female patient  
7 under his or her care to recite and provide certain written information to such female patient  
8 regarding the best practices for and risks associated with the use of tampons; to provide for  
9 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

11 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
12 relating to competencies and core curriculum, is amended in Code Section 20-2-143, relating  
13 to sex education and AIDS prevention instruction, implementation, and student exemption,  
14 by revising subsections (a) and (b) and by adding a new subsection to read as follows:  
15

16 "(a) Each local board of education shall prescribe a course of study in sex education and  
17 ~~AIDS~~ acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention instruction for such  
18 grades and grade levels in the public school system as shall be determined by the State  
19 Board of Education. Such course of study shall implement either the minimum course of  
20 study provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section or its equivalent, as approved by  
21 the State Board of Education. Each local board of education shall be authorized to  
22 supplement and develop the exact approach of content areas of such minimum course of  
23 study with such specific curriculum standards as it may deem appropriate. Such standards  
24 shall include instruction relating to the handling of peer pressure, the promotion of high  
25 self-esteem, local community values, the legal consequences of parenthood, ~~and~~ abstinence  
26 from sexual activity as an effective method of prevention of pregnancy, sexually

27 transmitted diseases, and ~~acquired immune deficiency syndrome~~ AIDS, and, for female  
 28 students, best practices for and risks associated with the use of tampons as provided for in  
 29 subsection (b.1) of this Code section.

30 (b) The State Board of Education shall prescribe a minimum course of study in sex  
 31 education and AIDS prevention instruction which may be included as a part of a course of  
 32 study in comprehensive health education for such grades and grade levels in the public  
 33 school system as shall be determined by the state board and shall establish standards for  
 34 its administration. The course may include instruction concerning human biology,  
 35 conception, pregnancy, birth, sexually transmitted diseases, ~~and acquired immune~~  
 36 ~~deficiency syndrome~~ AIDS, and toxic shock syndrome (TSS). The course shall include  
 37 instruction concerning the legal consequences of parenthood, including, without being  
 38 limited to, the legal obligation of both parents to support a child and legal penalties or  
 39 restrictions upon failure to support a child, including, without being limited to, the possible  
 40 suspension or revocation of a parent's driver's license and occupational or professional  
 41 licenses. The course shall also include annual age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault  
 42 awareness and prevention education in kindergarten through grade ~~9~~ nine. The course may  
 43 include instruction for female students on the best practices for and risks associated with  
 44 the use of tampons as provided for in subsection (b.1) of this Code section. A manual  
 45 setting out the details of such course of study shall be prepared by or approved by the State  
 46 School Superintendent in cooperation with the Department of Public Health, the State  
 47 Board of Education, and such expert advisers as they may choose.

48 (b.1) Instruction for female students on the best practices for and risks associated with the  
 49 use of tampons as provided for in subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section may include  
 50 the following information:

51 (1) Tampons are associated with toxic shock syndrome (TSS) which is a rare but serious  
 52 disease that may cause death;

53 (2) The warning signs of TSS are sudden fever and vomiting, diarrhea, fainting or near  
 54 fainting when standing up, dizziness, or a rash that looks like a sunburn;

55 (3) If such warning signs of TSS appear, remove the tampon at once and seek medical  
 56 attention immediately;

57 (4) Data indicating the risk of TSS to all women using tampons during their menstrual  
 58 period, especially the reported higher risks to women under 30 years of age and teenage  
 59 girls, show an estimated incidence of TSS of one to 17 per 100,000 menstruating women  
 60 and girls per year and support the risk of death from contracting TSS;

61 (5) Tampons with the minimum absorbency needed to control menstrual flow should be  
 62 used in order to reduce the risk associated with TSS;

63 (6) The risk of contracting tampon associated TSS may be avoided by not using tampons,  
 64 and the risk of contracting TSS may be reduced by alternating tampon use with sanitary  
 65 napkin use during menstrual periods; and  
 66 (7) Medical attention should be sought before resuming use of tampons if TSS warning  
 67 signs have occurred in the past or if questions exist regarding TSS or tampon use."

68 **SECTION 2.**

69 Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
 70 general provisions regarding health, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as  
 71 follows:

72 "31-1-16.

73 Physicians and nurses licensed pursuant to Title 43, including, but not limited to,  
 74 physicians and nurses practicing in hospitals and schools, who provide a tampon for use  
 75 by any female patient under his or her care are encouraged to recite to and provide to such  
 76 female patient in written form the following information:

77 (1) Tampons are associated with toxic shock syndrome (TSS) which is a rare but serious  
 78 disease that may cause death;

79 (2) The warning signs of TSS are sudden fever and vomiting, diarrhea, fainting or near  
 80 fainting when standing up, dizziness, or a rash that looks like a sunburn;

81 (3) If such warning signs of TSS appear, remove the tampon at once and seek medical  
 82 attention immediately;

83 (4) Data indicating the risk of TSS to all women using tampons during their menstrual  
 84 period, especially the reported higher risks to women under 30 years of age and teenage  
 85 girls, show an estimated incidence of TSS of one to 17 per 100,000 menstruating women  
 86 and girls per year and support the risk of death associated with TSS;

87 (5) Tampons with the minimum absorbency needed to control menstrual flow should be  
 88 used in order to reduce the risk of contracting TSS;

89 (6) The risk of contracting tampon associated TSS may be avoided by not using tampons,  
 90 and the risk of contracting TSS may be reduced by alternating tampon use with sanitary  
 91 napkin use during menstrual periods; and

92 (7) Medical attention should be sought before resuming use of tampons if TSS warning  
 93 signs have occurred in the past or if questions exist regarding TSS or tampon use."

94 **SECTION 3.**

95 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.