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DRUG LEGISLATION Education: Elementary, Secondary, and Adult Education: Add Drug and Alcohol Use Educational Program to Core Curriculum

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EDUCATION

Elementary, Secondary, and Adult Education: Add Drug and Alcohol Use Educational Program to Core Curriculum

CODE SECTIONS:	O.C.G.A. § 20-2-144 (new)
BILL NUMBER:	HB 1261
ACT NUMBER:	1449
SUMMARY:	The Act requires the State Board of Education to develop an educational program on drug and alcohol use to be implemented by each local school board of education in grades kindergarten through twelve. The Act authorizes the withholding of state funds from local school boards that do not comply.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Apr. 16, 1990

HB 1261

Assigned to the Education Committee, HB 1261 went through hearings with virtually no discussion, opposition, or attention from the news media.[1] Its long-term goal, fully supported by the State Board of Education, is to ensure a minimum level of education about drug and alcohol use in the 186 local school systems in Georgia.[2] The mandatory drug and alcohol education program in grades kindergarten through twelve provided by this Act will complement the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.[3]

New Code section 20-1-144(b) mandates the development of a minimum educational program pertaining to the dangers of alcohol and drug use, to include sequential instruction in four areas: (1) physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of substance abuse; (2) assistance programs for drug users; (3) evaluation of drug, alcohol, and tobacco advertising; and (4) lawful authority and lawful behavior.[4] The drug education material is taught as part of the health curriculum.[5]

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1. Telephone interview with Michael F. Vollmer, Executive Director, The Governor's Commission on Drug Awareness and Prevention (Mar. 20, 1990) [hereinafter Vollmer Interview]; telephone interview with Rusty Sewell, Executive Conusel to the Governor (Mar. 19, 1990) [hereinafter Sewell Interview]; telephone interview with David Lee, Senate Research Office (Mar. 22, 1990).

2. Vollmer Interview, *supra* note 1.

3. *Id.* The DARE program educates third and fourth grade children on how to handle peer pressure, responsibility, and crisis situations. *Id.*

4. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-144(b) (Supp. 1990).

5. Sewell Interview, *supra* note 1.

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Local boards of education must implement, in grades kindergarten through twelve, at least the minimum educational program developed by the State Board of Education, but may substitute an equivalent program with the approval of the State Board.[6] Local school boards are assisted in their efforts by a manual prepared by the State School Superintendent, which provides details of the educational program, as required under the Act.[7] Completion of the State Board's educational program by July 1, 1990, and implementation of the new curriculum by December 31, 1990, are required under the Act.[8] The Act authorizes the withholding of state funds from local school boards that do not comply.[9]

C. Adkison

6. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-144(a) (Supp. 1990).
7. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-144(c) (Supp. 1990).
8. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-144(d) (Supp. 1990).
9. *Id.*

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