

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 require instruction on the  
3 best practices for, and risks associated with, the use of tampons in the 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 require that every physician and nurse providing a tampon for use by any female patient  
7 under his or her care shall recite and provide certain written information to such female  
8 patient regarding the best practices for, and risks associated with, the use of tampons; to  
9 provide for 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  
 29 in 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. The course shall include instruction concerning the legal  
 37 consequences of parenthood, including, without being limited to, the legal obligation of  
 38 both parents to support a child and legal penalties or restrictions upon failure to support a  
 39 child, including, without being limited to, the possible suspension or revocation of a  
 40 parent's driver's license and occupational or professional licenses. The course shall include  
 41 instruction for female students on the best practices for, and risks associated with, the use  
 42 of tampons as provided for in subsection (b.1) of this Code section. A manual setting out  
 43 the details of such course of study shall be prepared by or approved by the State School  
 44 Superintendent in cooperation with the Department of Public Health, the State Board of  
 45 Education, and such expert advisers as they may choose.

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

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

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

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

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

59 (5) The advisability of using tampons with the minimum absorbency needed to control  
 60 menstrual flow in order to reduce the risk of contracting TSS;

61 (6) Avoiding the risk of contracting tampon associated TSS by not using tampons and  
 62 reducing the risk of contracting TSS by alternating tampon use with sanitary napkin use  
 63 during menstrual periods; and

64 (7) The need to seek medical attention before resuming use of tampons if TSS warning  
 65 signs have occurred in the past or if the female students have any questions about TSS  
 66 or tampon use."

67 **SECTION 2.**

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

71 "31-1-16.

72 Every physician and nurse licensed pursuant to Title 43, including, but not limited to  
 73 physicians and nurses practicing in hospitals and schools, providing a tampon for use by  
 74 any female patient under his or her care shall recite to and provide to such female patient  
 75 in written form the following information:

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

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

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

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

86 (5) The advisability of using tampons with the minimum absorbency needed to control  
 87 menstrual flow in order to reduce the risk of contracting TSS;

88 (6) Avoiding the risk of contracting tampon associated TSS by not using tampons and  
 89 reducing the risk of contracting TSS by alternating tampon use with sanitary napkin use  
 90 during menstrual periods; and

91 (7) The need to seek medical attention before resuming use of tampons if TSS warning  
 92 signs have occurred in the past or if the female patient has any questions about TSS or  
 93 tampon use."

94 **SECTION 3.**

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