Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

## **SENATE BILL NO. 2311**

Introduced by

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Senators Heckaman, K. Roers

Representatives Buffalo, Devlin, Vigesaa

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-21-24 of the North Dakota Century Code,
relating to mental health awareness and suicide prevention instruction for students in grades
seven through twelve:for an Act to provide for a review of North Dakota health education
content standards and curriculum; and to provide for a legislative management report.

## BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

6 SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-21-24 of the North Dakota Century Code is 7 amended and reenacted as follows: 8 15.1-21-24. Health and wellness curriculum - Content. 9 Beginning July 1, 2012, each school district and nonpublic school shall ensure that the: 10 The portion of its health curriculum which is related to sexual health includes 11 instruction pertaining to the risks associated with adolescent sexual activity and the 12 social, psychological, and physical health gains to be realized by abstaining from-13 sexual activity before and outside of marriage; and 14 2. The district or nonpublic school's health curriculum for all students in grades seven-15 through twelve includes instruction in mental health awareness and suicide prevention. 16 including instruction and information on identifying warning signs and risk factors, 17 identifying at-risk peers, and the availability of resources. To satisfy the requirements 18 of this subsection, a district or nonpublic school may collaborate with other districts 19 and nonpublic schools to share resources and provide the instruction through distance 20 or virtual learning.

SECTION 1. SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW OF HEALTH EDUCATION CONTENTS

STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT. During the

2021-22 interim, the superintendent of public instruction shall review the North Dakota health
education content standards and curriculum for students enrolled in kindergarten through grade

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- 1 twelve to ensure the age-appropriate content standards and curriculum are current and reflect
- 2 best practices, including a review of mental health awareness and suicide prevention with a
- 3 focus on identifiable warning signs and risk factors, and identifying at-risk peers. Before July 1,
- 4 2022, the superintendent of public instruction shall report the findings and recommendations of
- 5 the review to the legislative management.