

SENATE BILL No. 562

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-30-5-0.2.

Synopsis: Teaching methods. Requires the state board of education, the department of education, governing bodies of school corporations, superintendents, principals, and other public school administrators to: (1) endeavor to create an environment within public schools that encourages students to explore questions, learn about evidence, develop critical thinking skills, and respond appropriately and respectfully to different conclusions and theories concerning subjects that have produced differing conclusions and theories on some topics; and (2) allow a teacher to help students understand, analyze, critique, and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths and weaknesses of conclusions and theories being presented in a course being taught by the teacher.

Effective: July 1, 2015.

Raatz, Kruse

January 20, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Education & Career Development.



First Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 562



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-30-5-0.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2015]: **Sec. 0.2. (a) The general assembly finds that:**
4 **(1) an important purpose of science education is to inform**
5 **students about evidence and to help students develop critical**
6 **thinking skills necessary to become intelligent, productive,**
7 **and informed citizens;**
8 **(2) some scientific subjects, such as, but not limited to, human**
9 **cloning, may produce differing conclusions and theories**
10 **supported by noted experts on some topics within those**
11 **subjects; and**
12 **(3) some teachers may be unsure of the expectations**
13 **concerning how the teachers should present information and**
14 **evidence on these topics.**
15 **(b) This section applies to school corporations.**
16 **(c) The state board, the department, governing bodies,**



1 superintendents, principals, and other administrators shall
2 endeavor to create an environment within public schools that
3 encourages students to explore questions, learn about evidence,
4 develop critical thinking skills, and respond appropriately and
5 respectfully to different conclusions and theories concerning
6 controversial scientific subjects.

7 (d) The state board, the department, governing bodies,
8 superintendents, principals, and other administrators may
9 endeavor to assist teachers in finding effective ways to present the
10 curriculum as the curriculum addresses subjects set forth in
11 subsection (a)(2). A teacher shall be allowed to help students
12 understand, analyze, critique, and review in an objective manner
13 the scientific strengths and weaknesses of conclusions and theories
14 being presented in a course being taught by the teacher.

15 (e) The state board, the department, governing bodies,
16 superintendents, principals, and other administrators may not
17 prohibit a teacher in a public school from helping students to
18 understand, analyze, critique, and review in an objective manner
19 the scientific strengths and weaknesses of existing conclusions and
20 theories being presented in a course being taught by the teacher.

21 (f) This section protects only the teaching of scientific
22 information, and may not be construed to promote:

- 23 (1) any religious or nonreligious doctrine;
24 (2) discrimination for or against a particular set of religious
25 beliefs or nonbeliefs; or
26 (3) discrimination for or against religion or nonreligion.

