

Senate Bill 199 - Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework –
Established
Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 8, 2023

Now, what *is* this bill? With regard to the framework itself, SB 199 will codify and protect the existing process by which MSDE and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) collaborated with a broad cross-section of stakeholders to develop the current State framework that LEAs use when making their own, local decisions about curriculum and instructional materials. Codifying these provisions in State law will ensure that the skills and curricular outcomes of the health framework remain tied to objective, scientific, data-driven, and evidence-based research. MSDE and MDH aligned the framework to national and State standards and Maryland legislative requirements using data about Maryland’s youth along with scientifically and medically accurate information to identify essential health education skills at each grade level.

This bill emphasizes the requirements of the Comprehensive Health Education regulation ([COMAR 13A.04.18](#)) by mandating that LEAs convene a joint committee of parents and/or guardians, educators, health experts, and representatives of the local education community to review and comment on the instructional materials used in the family life and human sexuality unit to ensure that it is age-appropriate and represents all students regardless of ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

This bill also provides opportunities for parents and/or guardians to view instructional materials and make informed decisions about allowing their students to participate in the family life and human sexuality unit, including the gender identity and sexual orientation topics.

MSDE respectfully requests that you consider this information and issue a favorable report on **Senate Bill 199**. Please contact Justin Dayhoff at 410-767-0439 or justin.dayhoff@maryland.gov for any additional information.