

HUMAN EMBRYOLOGIC AND FETAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION LANGUAGE BEFORE THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

This year, the Florida legislative session runs from January 13 to March 13. It is our hope that the legislature will make Human Embryologic and Fetal Development Education a requirement for all public school students in Florida. This was attempted last year, but the requirement was deleted out of the education bill. It has been proposed again this year. If passed, Florida would become the 7th State to require instruction like the Baby Olivia video.

Companion bills have been filed in both the Florida House and Florida Senate. Language is similar but not exact. As the bills go through committees, language may change. If these provisions survive committees and get approved by their separate legislative bodies then language must be reconciled and ultimately passed as a single bill for signature by the Governor.

SO – We need to monitor and contact our legislators as the session progresses, telling them how we want them to vote.

HB 1071 – Education was filed by Rep. Dana Trubulsy. The bill is 50 pages long, covering a wide range of provisions regarding our public schools.

SB 1090 – Education was filed by Sen. Erin Grall. This bill is 52 pages and has similar provisions.

SIMILARITIES

Both bills:

- Add human embryologic and fetal development instruction to the list of required instruction for public school students.
- Specifically require that health education in grades 6-12 must include
 - (I) A high-definition ultrasound video, at least 1 minute in duration showing the development of the heart and other organs and movement of the limbs and head.
 - (II) A high-quality, computer-generated rendering, animation, video, or other multimedia, at least 3 minutes in duration, showing and describing

the process of fertilization and various states of human development inside the uterus, noting significant markers in cell growth and organ development by week from conception until birth.

DIFFERENCE RE: PARENTAL CONSENT

HB 1071 provides that parents must be notified of this instruction and of their right to exclude their student from this instruction.

SB 1090 provides that parents must provide prior written consent before a student is instructed on this topic.

So the House bill allows parents to opt their students out of this instruction but the Senate bill would require parents to opt in before instruction occurs.