

SENATE BILL No. 168

By Committee on Education

2-6

AN ACT concerning origins of life instruction by school districts; providing certain standards therefor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. It is the intent of the legislature that to enhance the comprehensiveness of science education and to promote academic freedom and the neutrality of state government with respect to teachings that touch religious and nonreligious beliefs, it is necessary and desirable that "origins science" which seeks to explain the origins of life and its diversity, be taught inclusively, objectively and without religious, naturalistic or philosophic bias or assumption. To further this intent, the instructional program provided by any school district shall do all of the following:

(a) Encourage the presentation of scientific evidence supporting the origins of life and its diversity, objectively and without religious, naturalistic or philosophic bias or assumption;

(b) require that whenever explanations regarding the origins of life are presented, appropriate scientific explanation and disclosure shall be provided regarding the historical nature of origins science and the use of any implied material assumption which may be provided as a basis for the explanation being presented;

(c) encourage the development of curriculums that will help students to be exposed and understand the full range of scientific views that exist regarding the origins of life;

(d) exempt educational staff from penalties or restrictions resulting from deviation from the printed text, administrative, scientific or historical bias or any given curriculum requirement, or any combination thereof.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.