

18A:35-4.6 to 18A:35-4.8

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

("Parents Rights to  
Conscience Act"---  
permit exclusion of  
pupils from family  
life & sex ed. courses  
& certain medical exams)

WJSA 18A:35-4.6 to 18A:35-4.8

LAWS OF 1979

CHAPTER 428

Bill No. S3071

Sponsor(s) Yates

Date Introduced January 25, 1979

Committee: Assembly Education

Senate Law, Public Safety and Defense

Amended during passage Yes  Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly Jan. 3, 1980

Senate May 3, 1979

Date of approval February 4, 1980

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes  (Below)

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note  No

Veto message  No

Message on signing  No

Following were printed:

Reports Yes

Hearings  No

Sponsor's statement:

This bill specifies that parents have the right to ask that their children be excused from certain programs of instruction, and under certain conditions be excused from medical examination if such objections are objections of conscience, religion or moral persuasion.

2/1/78

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CHAPTER 428 LAWS OF N. J. 19 79  
APPROVED 2-11-80

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]  
SENATE. No. 3071

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 25, 1979

By Senator YATES

Referred to Committee on Law, Public Safety and Defense

AN ACT concerning education and supplementing Title 18A of the  
New Jersey Statutes.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. This act shall be known as the "Parents Rights to Conscience  
2 Act of 1979."

1 2. Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school  
2 principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in  
3 health, family life education\***[L]**\* \*or\* sex education \***[or drug**  
4 **education]**\* is in conflict with his conscience, or sincerely held  
5 moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the  
6 course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as  
7 to credit or graduation shall result therefrom.

1 3. No pupil whose parent or guardian objects to such pupil re-  
2 ceiving medical treatment or medical examination or physical  
3 examination shall be compelled to receive such treatment or ex-  
4 amination; provided, however, that no objection shall be made to  
5 a physical or medical examination of any physically handicapped  
6 child for the purpose of determining whether such child shall be  
7 admitted to any class or school for handicapped children or of any  
8 pupil to determine whether he is ill or infected with a communica-  
9 ble disease or of any person who appears to be under the influence  
10 of a drug pursuant to P. L. 1971, c. 390 (C. 18A:40-4.1).

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill  
is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 3071**

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 26, 1979

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports this bill and endorses the statement of the Senate Education Committee.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 3071**

with Senate committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: APRIL 5, 1979

This bill would permit parents to submit a signed statement excusing their children from any portion of instructions on health, family life education or sex education which is in conflict with their conscience or their moral or religious belief, and under certain circumstances allowing them to be excused from medical examinations or treatment they find offensive to such principles. The committee amended the bill to eliminate drug education from the list of courses from which the children could be excused.