

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 462  
2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
3 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health  
4 on February 26, 2026)  
5 (Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Cohen)

6 *A BILL to direct the Board of Education to require health literacy instruction in grades nine and 10 and*  
7 *remove any duplicative or outdated health instruction in the next regularly scheduled revision of the*  
8 *Health Education Standards of Learning.*

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

10 **1. § 1.** *The Board of Education (the Board), during its next regularly scheduled revision of the Health*  
11 *Education Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework, shall, in consultation with the School Health*  
12 *Services Committee (the Committee) established pursuant to Chapter 64 (§ 30-409 et seq.) of Title 30 of the*  
13 *Code of Virginia:*

14 *1. Develop a health care literacy program of instruction to be required in grades nine and 10 for the*  
15 *purpose of helping students navigate the health care system efficiently and effectively and shall consider the*  
16 *following topics and content for inclusion in such instruction:*

17 *a. Navigating the health care system as a patient, including patient concerns such as understanding,*  
18 *communication, cost-effective utilization, digital access, finance, and insurance;*

19 *b. Accessing health information, including being able to find and retrieve reliable health information from*  
20 *various sources;*

21 *c. Understanding health information, including comprehending medical terminology, statistics, and*  
22 *instructions;*

23 *d. Evaluating health information, including assessing the credibility and relevance of health information*  
24 *sources;*

25 *e. Applying health information, including making informed decisions about health behaviors, treatments,*  
26 *and resources; and*

27 *f. Communicating with health care providers, including effectively communicating health concerns and*  
28 *questions to health care professionals; and*

29 **2.** *Identify and remove from the Health Education Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework for*  
30 *grades nine and 10 any instructional subjects or topics the inclusion of which is duplicative or outdated.*