

1                   **PUBLIC EDUCATION - INSTRUCTION AND**  
2                   **POLICY RELATING TO THE ORIGINS OF**  
3                   **LIFE**

4                   2006 GENERAL SESSION

5                   STATE OF UTAH

6                   **Chief Sponsor: D. Chris Buttars**

7                   House Sponsor: James A. Ferrin

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9                   **LONG TITLE**

10                  **General Description:**

11                  This bill amends the chapter relating to Curriculum in the Public Schools to require the  
12                  State Board of Education to establish certain curriculum requirements and policies  
13                  relating to instruction on theories of the origins of life.

14                  **Highlighted Provisions:**

15                  This bill:

- 16                  ▶ states the intent of the Legislature relating to this bill;
- 17                  ▶ requires the State Board of Education to establish curriculum requirements and  
18                  policies that:
- 19                      • stress that not all scientists agree on which theory regarding the origins of life,  
20                      or the origins or present state of the human race, is correct; and
  - 21                      • do not endorse a particular theory regarding the origins of life or the origins or  
22                      present state of the human race; and
- 23                  ▶ grants rulemaking authority to the State Board of Education.

24                  **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

25                  None

26                  **Other Special Clauses:**

27                  None



28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 ENACTS:

30 **53A-13-101.7**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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32 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

33 Section 1. Section **53A-13-101.7** is enacted to read:

34 **53A-13-101.7. Curriculum and policy on theories relating to the origins of life.**

35 (1) In order to encourage students to critically analyze theories regarding the origins of  
36 life or the origins or present state of the human race, consider opposing viewpoints, and form  
37 their own opinions, the Legislature desires to avoid the perception that all scientists agree on  
38 any one theory, or that the state endorses one theory over another.

39 (2) The State Board of Education shall establish curriculum requirements, consistent  
40 with Subsection (1), relating to instruction of students on theories regarding the origins of life  
41 or the origins or present state of the human race.

42 (3) The curriculum requirements described in Subsection (2) shall require that  
43 instruction to students on any theory regarding the origins of life, or the origins or present state  
44 of the human race, shall stress that not all scientists agree on which theory is correct.

45 (4) The State Board of Education shall:

46 (a) make rules, pursuant to Title 63, Chapter 46a, Utah Administrative Rulemaking  
47 Act, to fulfill the requirements of this section; and

48 (b) ensure that all policies and positions of the State Board of Education relating to  
49 theories regarding the origins of life or the origins or present state of the human race:

50 (i) do not endorse a particular theory; and

51 (ii) stress that not all scientists agree on which theory is correct.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 12-1-05 8:53 AM**

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**Fiscal Note**  
**Bill Number SB0096**

**Public Education - Instruction and Policy Relating to the Origins of Life**

*14-Jan-06*

*8:02 PM*

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**State Impact**

Any costs associated with the enactment of this bill can be handled within existing budgets.

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**Individual and Business Impact**

None

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**Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst**