

1 A BILL

2 _____
3 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
4 _____

5 To require, on an emergency basis, District of Columbia local education agencies, private
6 schools, the University of the District of Columbia, private universities and colleges, and
7 vocational schools to install and maintain dispensers or similar receptacles of free-for-use
8 period products in women’s and gender-neutral bathrooms, and to require the Office of
9 the State Superintendent of Education to develop and implement health education
10 standards on menstrual education designed for all students in District of Columbia Public
11 Schools and District of Columbia Charter Schools, beginning in grade 4 and regardless of
12 gender.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
14 act may be cited as the “Expanding Student Access to Period Products Emergency Act of 2021”.

15 Sec. 2. Definitions.

16 (a) “Local education agency” or “LEA” means the District of Columbia Public Schools
17 (“DCPS”) system, an individual public charter school, or a group of public charter schools
18 operating under a single charter.

19 (b) “Period products” means a tampon, a sanitary pad, or liner.

20 Sec. 3. Provision of period products.

21 (a)(1) Local education agencies and private schools shall install at least one dispenser or
22 similar receptacle of period products in:

23 (A) Each women’s and gender-neutral bathroom in every middle school
24 and high school; and

25 (B) One women’s and gender-neutral bathroom in every elementary
26 school.

27 (2) If a school building does not have a gender-neutral bathroom, then the
28 products shall also be available in at least one men’s bathroom.

29 (3) LEAs and private schools shall stock every dispenser or similar receptacle
30 with sufficient period products to serve the needs of LEA and private school students throughout
31 the academic year and any period of summer programming offered on its campus.

32 (b) The University of the District of Columbia (“UDC”), private universities and
33 colleges, and vocational schools shall:

34 (1) Install at least one dispenser or similar receptacle for period products in every
35 women’s and gender-neutral bathroom.

36 (2) Stock every dispenser or similar receptacle with sufficient period products to
37 serve the needs of students at all times throughout the calendar year.

38 (c) Period products shall be free of cost.

39 (d) In consultation with the District of Columbia Department of Health, the Office of the
40 State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) shall develop an 8.5” x 11” sign that includes
41 medically accurate information on the safe use and disposal of menstrual products. The sign shall
42 be:

43 (1) Placed near each dispenser or similar receptacle.

44 (2) Made available for downloading in PDF format on the OSSE website.

45 (e) Each LEA, private school, the UDC, private college and university, and vocational
46 school shall install the dispensers or similar receptacles required by this act within one year of
47 the effective date of this act.

48 Sec. 4. Education on menstruation.

49 (a) In consultation with the State Board of Education, OSSE shall develop and
50 implement health education standards on menstrual education designed for all students in DCPS
51 and District of Columbia Charter Schools, beginning in grade 4 and regardless of gender.

52 (1) The overarching vision of the health education standards shall be to ensure
53 that students in the District of Columbia schools shall have the information, support, and
54 enabling school environment for managing menstruation with dignity, safety, and comfort.

55 (2) The health education standards shall include information on the menstrual
56 cycle, premenstrual syndrome and pain management, menstrual hygiene management, menstrual
57 disorders, menstrual irregularities, menopause, and other relevant topics relating to the menstrual
58 cycle.

59 (b) OSSE shall implement the health education standards within one year of the effective
60 date of this act.

61 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

62 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
63 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
64 October 16, 2006 (12 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

65 Sec. 6. Effective date.

66 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
67 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than
68 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in. section
69 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788,
70 D.C. Official Code§ 1-204. I 2(a)).