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SENATE BILL 6546

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Deccio, Wood, Wojahn, Rasmussen, Hochstatter, McAuliffe, Finkbeiner, Prentice, Thibaudeau, Oke and Patterson

Read first time 01/21/98. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to school nurses; adding a new section to chapter  
2 28A.210 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that schools are being  
5 asked to play an increasingly expanding role in protecting our  
6 children's health. Schools are responsible for monitoring the  
7 immunization of children, evaluating children's hearing and vision, and  
8 screening for scoliosis. Chronically ill children often require  
9 medically ordered treatment to enable them to attend school.  
10 Prescription medication is often required to be given to children  
11 during the school day. Schools are also responsible for identifying  
12 and reporting child abuse, identifying drug and alcohol problems,  
13 treating emergencies, providing counseling and assistance for teenage  
14 parents, and providing AIDS education. The legislature finds that  
15 expertise is needed in our schools to protect the health of students in  
16 our schools and to help students learn.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210  
18 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, each school district  
2 shall maintain a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every one  
3 thousand five hundred full-time equivalent students. In the 2000-2001  
4 school year, each school district shall maintain a ratio of not less  
5 than one school nurse for every one thousand full-time equivalent  
6 students. In the 2001-2002 school year, each school district shall  
7 maintain a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every seven  
8 hundred fifty full-time equivalent students.

9 (2) The state board of education shall adopt rules providing for  
10 the initial and continuing certification for certified school nurses.  
11 Application shall be made within one year after the effective date of  
12 this section.

13 (3) A second class school district may continue to hire persons who  
14 meet the requirements of RCW 28A.210.300.

15 (4) As used in this section, "school nurse" means a person who  
16 satisfies the following requirements:

17 (a)(i) The candidate holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing,  
18 including training in public health nursing;

19 (ii) The candidate holds a valid license as a registered nurse (RN)  
20 in Washington state;

21 (iii) The candidate is certified as an educational staff associate  
22 pursuant to requirements established by the office of the  
23 superintendent of public instruction;

24 (iv) The candidate has successfully completed additional  
25 postgraduate work including, but not limited to, school health, crisis  
26 intervention, health counseling, child development, health curriculum,  
27 and drug and alcohol abuse curriculum; and

28 (v) The candidate has professional nursing experience in school  
29 settings for the equivalent of three school years within the six years  
30 immediately preceding the effective date of this section; or

31 (b) The candidate qualifies under subsection (3) of this section.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** By December 31, 2001, the superintendent of  
33 public instruction shall submit a report to the legislature on the  
34 implementation of section 2 of this act and the impact of the services  
35 provided. The report shall include recommendations about whether  
36 funding for school nurses should be an ongoing responsibility of the  
37 state and part of basic education.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.**   Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire June 30,  
2   2002.

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