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HOUSE BILL 2763

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Morrell, Edwards, Schual-Berke, Haigh, Kessler, Cody, Darneille, Simpson, G., Conway and Kenney

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the delivery of health care services  
2 for school-aged children; adding a new section to chapter 28A.210 RCW;  
3 creating new sections; making an appropriation; and providing an  
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that schools are  
7 increasingly required to play an expanding role in protecting our  
8 children's health. Schools are responsible for monitoring the  
9 immunization of children, evaluating children's hearing and vision, and  
10 screening for scoliosis. Chronically ill children often require  
11 medically ordered treatment to enable them to attend school.  
12 Medication is often required to be given to children during the school  
13 day. Schools are also responsible for identifying and reporting child  
14 abuse, identifying drug and alcohol problems, treating emergencies,  
15 providing counseling and assistance for teenage parents, and providing  
16 AIDS, human growth and development, and personal safety education.  
17 Schools are asked to coordinate with families and community services to  
18 manage students with significant health problems and to make referrals  
19 to appropriate community services. Schools are required to abide by

1 rules of confidentiality and to properly maintain health care records.  
2 The legislature finds that additional school nurses with the  
3 appropriate expertise are needed in our schools to play a pivotal role  
4 in improving the health and educational success of the school-age  
5 child.

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

8 (1) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year, each class I school  
9 district shall maintain a ratio of at least one school nurse for every  
10 two thousand full-time equivalent students. Beginning in the 2007-08  
11 school year, each class I school district shall maintain a ratio of at  
12 least one school nurse for every one thousand five hundred full-time  
13 equivalent students.

14 (2) The state board of education shall adopt rules providing for  
15 the initial and continuing certification for certified school nurses.

16 (a) All school nurses in class I school districts must apply for  
17 certification within one year after the effective date of this section.

18 (b) A class II school district may continue to hire persons who  
19 meet the requirements of RCW 28A.210.300 and are not required to be  
20 certified under this section.

21 (3) As used in this section, "school nurse" means a person who:

22 (a) Holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing, including  
23 training in public health nursing;

24 (b) Holds a valid license as a registered nurse (RN) in Washington  
25 state; and

26 (c) Is certified as an educational staff associate under the  
27 requirements established by the office of the superintendent of public  
28 instruction.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** By December 31, 2007, the superintendent of  
30 public instruction shall submit a report to the legislature on the  
31 implementation of section 2 of this act and the impact of the services  
32 provided. The report shall include recommendations about whether  
33 funding for school nurses should be an ongoing responsibility of the  
34 state and part of basic education. The office of the superintendent of  
35 public instruction has the authority to write rules necessary to  
36 implement this section.

