

SHB 1494 - H AMD

By Representative Schual-Berke

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

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

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of superintendent of
24 public instruction and the department of health shall collaborate
25 and develop a work group to assess school nursing services in class
26 I school districts. The work group shall consult with
27 representatives from the following groups: School nurses, schools,
28 students, parents, teachers, health officials, and administrators.

29 (2) The work group shall:

1 (a) Study the need for additional school nursing services by
2 gathering data about current school nurse-to-student ratios in each
3 class I school district and assessing the demand for school nursing
4 services by acuity levels and the necessary skills to meet those
5 demands. The work group also shall recommend to the legislature
6 best practices in school nursing services, including a dedicated,
7 sustainable funding model that would best meet the current and
8 future needs of Washington's schools and contribute to greater
9 academic success of all students. The work group shall make
10 recommendations for a school nurse-to-student ratio, and may
11 examine school nurse-to-student ratios by grade level. The work
12 group shall assess whether funding for school nurses should
13 continue as part of basic education; and

14 (b) In collaboration with managed care plans that contract with
15 the department of social and health services medical assistance
16 administration to provide health services to children participating
17 in the medicaid and state children's health insurance program,
18 identify opportunities to improve coordination of and access to
19 health services for low-income children through the use of school
20 nurse services. The work group shall evaluate the feasibility of
21 pooling school district and managed care plan funding to finance
22 school nurse positions in school districts with high numbers of
23 low-income children.

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

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

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

29 (c) Is certified as an educational staff associate under the
30 requirements established by the office of superintendent of public
31 instruction.

32 (4) The office of superintendent of public instruction shall
33 report its findings and plans for implementation to the legislature
34 by February 1, 2006.

35 (5) This section expires June 30, 2006.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The school nurse account is created in
37 the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from gifts,

1 grants, or endowments obtained under section 4 of this act must be
2 deposited into the account.

3 Expenditures from the account may be used only to increase the
4 school nurse-to-student ratios in class I school districts. School
5 districts with more than one thousand five hundred students for
6 every school nurse shall receive priority for these funds. As used
7 in this section, "school nurse" does not include nurses in the
8 school nurse corps.

9 Only the superintendent of public instruction or the
10 superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures from the
11 account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under
12 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
13 expenditures.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The office of the superintendent of
15 public instruction may receive gifts, grants, or endowments from
16 public or private sources that are made from time to time, in trust
17 or otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of section 3
18 of this act and spend gifts, grants, or endowments or income from
19 the public or private sources to support the purpose in section 3
20 of this act, unless the receipt of the gifts, grants, or endowments
21 violates RCW 42.17.710.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of
23 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
24 provided by June 30, 2005, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
25 act is null and void."

26 Correct the title accordingly.

EFFECT: Includes requirement that the office of superintendent of
public instruction work in collaboration with the department of
health in the development of a work group to study school nursing
services in class I school districts. Specifies that the work
group will make recommendations for a school nurse-to-student ratio
for various grade levels. Also creates a school nurse account to

increase the school nurse-to-student ratio in class I school districts. Removes the appropriation.