
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1494

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Morrell, Clibborn, Green, Kessler, Cody, Appleton, Darneille, Williams, Campbell, Lovick, Simpson, Hunt, Chase, Wood, Sells, Roberts, Kenney, McIntire, Hasegawa, Santos, Moeller and Schual-Berke)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the delivery of health care services
2 for school-aged children; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

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

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

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

11 (2) The work group shall:

12 (a) Study the need for additional school nursing services by
13 gathering data about current school nurse-to-student ratios in each
14 class I school district and assessing the demand for school nursing
15 services by acuity levels and the necessary skills to meet those
16 demands. The work group also shall recommend to the legislature best
17 practices in school nursing services, including a dedicated,
18 sustainable funding model that would best meet the current and future
19 needs of Washington's schools and contribute to greater academic
20 success of all students. The work group shall make recommendations for
21 school nursing services, and may examine school nursing services by
22 grade level. The work group shall assess whether funding for school
23 nurses should continue as part of basic education; and

24 (b) In collaboration with managed care plans that contract with the
25 department of social and health services medical assistance
26 administration to provide health services to children participating in
27 the medicaid and state children's health insurance program, identify
28 opportunities to improve coordination of and access to health services
29 for low-income children through the use of school nurse services. The
30 work group shall evaluate the feasibility of pooling school district
31 and managed care plan funding to finance school nurse positions in
32 school districts with high numbers of low-income children.

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

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

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

1 (c) Is certified as an educational staff associate under the
2 requirements established by the office of superintendent of public
3 instruction.

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

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The school nurse account is created in the
9 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from gifts, grants, or
10 endowments obtained under section 4 of this act must be deposited into
11 the account.

12 Expenditures from the account may be used only to increase the
13 nursing services in class I school districts. School districts with
14 more than one thousand five hundred students for every school nurse
15 shall receive priority for these funds. As used in this section,
16 "school nurse" does not include nurses in the school nurse corps.

17 Only the superintendent of public instruction or the
18 superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.
19 The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,
20 but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The office of the superintendent of public
22 instruction may receive gifts, grants, or endowments from public or
23 private sources that are made from time to time, in trust or otherwise,
24 for the use and benefit of the purposes of section 3 of this act and
25 spend gifts, grants, or endowments or income from the public or private
26 sources to support the purpose in section 3 of this act, unless the
27 receipt of the gifts, grants, or endowments violates RCW 42.17.710.

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

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