
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; making an
3 appropriation; and providing an 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 shall develop a work group to assess school nursing
7 services in class I school districts. The work group may consult with
8 representatives from the following groups: School nurses, schools,
9 students, parents, teachers, health officials, and administrators.

10 (2) The work group shall:

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

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

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

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

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

35 (c) Is certified as an educational staff associate under the
36 requirements established by the office of superintendent of public
37 instruction.

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

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of forty-five thousand dollars, or
6 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
7 year ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the office of the
8 superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
10 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
11 June 30, 2005, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
12 void.

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