

**SHB 1759** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that  
4 access to information regarding drug overdoses and the secure storage  
5 of medication and firearms can help decrease the risks of related  
6 injuries and deaths by aiding parents and students in their efforts  
7 to keep children and each other safe. The legislature also recognizes  
8 that significant increases in ongoing student behavioral health  
9 crises, including increased suicide ideation and completion, requires  
10 policymakers to promptly and thoughtfully consider reasonable ways of  
11 limiting children's access to lethal means.

12 (2) The legislature finds data involving the unintentional  
13 ingestion of medications by children highly concerning. Nationally,  
14 in 2017 and 2018 there was an average of 47,500 emergency room visits  
15 annually for children under the age of six who had accidentally, and  
16 without supervision, ingested medicine. This number equates to  
17 approximately 130 emergency room visits per day or more than five per  
18 hour. During this same two-year period, 23 children under age six  
19 were hospitalized each day for an accidental unsupervised ingestion  
20 of medicine. Furthermore, the data for 2017 indicates that 84 percent  
21 of children receiving emergency treatment for an accidental  
22 unsupervised ingestion of medicine were between one and three years  
23 old.

24 (3) Although the unintentional ingestion of medications can be  
25 fatal for children, regrettably, that threat is only one of many  
26 drug-related concerns plaguing families and children. The decades-  
27 long opioid crisis, for example, has had profound impacts in our  
28 state. According to data from the department of health, in 2018  
29 opioids were involved in two-thirds of the drug overdoses in  
30 Washington state and in the nation. Also, the 2018 Washington healthy  
31 youth survey indicated that about 2,500 12th grade students had tried

1 heroin at least once, and about 3,500 12th grade students had used  
2 pain killers to get high in any given month.

3 (4) The legislature also finds that the need for safe secure  
4 storage information is evidenced by sobering data. For example,  
5 researchers at the University of Washington found in 2018 that 63  
6 percent of Washington firearm owners did not practice secure firearm  
7 storage; and nationally, about 50,000 children each year are brought  
8 to emergency rooms after unintentionally ingesting a medicine when a  
9 caregiver was not watching.

10 (5) Researchers estimate that one in three American families with  
11 children have at least one firearm in the home. About 75 percent of  
12 children aged five through 14 with firearm-owning parents know where  
13 the firearms are stored, and more than 20 percent of the children  
14 have handled a firearm in the home without their parents' knowledge.

15 (6) The legislature recognizes that the impacts of firearms on  
16 the health and safety of children is profound. For example, an  
17 analysis of school related gun violence found that more than 85  
18 percent of school shooters obtained the firearm at their home or from  
19 a friend or relative. Researchers have also found that more than 75  
20 percent of firearms used in youth suicide attempts and unintentional  
21 injuries were stored in the residence of the victim, a relative, or a  
22 friend. Additionally, the two age groups most likely to be both  
23 shooters and victims were youth aged 14 to 17, and preschoolers aged  
24 five and younger. Furthermore, firearms are the leading cause of  
25 death in suicides and homicides by youth and young adults in  
26 Washington state.

27 (7) The legislature finds that the challenges of the ongoing  
28 COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated troubling trends with children and  
29 firearms. For example, the number of unintentional shooting deaths by  
30 children in the United States from the beginning of the COVID-19  
31 pandemic, March of 2020 through December of 2020, was 31 percent  
32 higher than the same period one year earlier. Nationally during this  
33 same period, there were 314 incidents of unintentional shootings by  
34 children resulting in 128 gun deaths and 199 nonfatal injuries.

35 (8) The legislature, therefore, in recognition of the critical  
36 and ongoing need for life-saving information for items that can  
37 accidentally or intentionally inflict great harm on children and  
38 families, intends to require that school districts and other public  
39 education entities use their websites and other communication  
40 resources to provide accurate and easily accessed information about

1 substance use trends, overdose symptoms and response, and the secure  
2 storage of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and  
3 firearms and ammunition.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Within existing resources and beginning in the 2023-24 school  
7 year, each school district that maintains a website must post a  
8 prominent link on their homepage, and the homepage for each school  
9 within the district, to information from the department of health  
10 provided in accordance with section 4 of this act that addresses  
11 substance use trends, overdose symptoms and response, and the secure  
12 storage of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and  
13 firearms and ammunition.

14 (2) Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, each school district,  
15 for the purpose of informing students, families, and other interested  
16 persons about available health and safety resources, must also make  
17 the information from the department of health accessible through  
18 other internet-based communications, such as social media accounts  
19 used by the district and through other digital and nondigital  
20 communications of the district. Postings required by this subsection  
21 may be made multiple times annually and no less frequently than twice  
22 each school year.

23 (3) This section governs school operation and management under  
24 RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020, and applies to charter schools  
25 established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal compact  
26 schools established under chapter 28A.715 RCW.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310  
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) Within existing resources, each educational service district  
30 that maintains a website must post a prominent link on their homepage  
31 to information from the department of health provided in accordance  
32 with section 4 of this act that addresses substance use trends,  
33 overdose symptoms and response, and the secure storage of  
34 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and firearms and  
35 ammunition.

36 (2) Each educational service district, for the purpose of  
37 informing students, families, and other interested persons about  
38 available health and safety resources, must also make the information

1 from the department of health accessible through other internet-based  
2 communications, such as social media accounts used by the educational  
3 service district and through other digital and nondigital  
4 communications of the educational service district. Postings required  
5 by this subsection must be made multiple times annually and no less  
6 frequently than quarterly.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 The department of health shall post and periodically revise on  
10 its website information about substance use trends, overdose symptoms  
11 and response, and the secure storage of prescription drugs, over-the-  
12 counter medications, and firearms and ammunition. The information  
13 must be provided or otherwise made accessible to school districts,  
14 charter public schools, state-tribal compact schools, and educational  
15 service districts, and must be formatted for the needs of public  
16 school students and families as provided in sections 2 and 3 of this  
17 act. The information also must be in the form of a template that can  
18 be revised as necessary and that:

19 (1) Includes website addresses and telephone numbers of one or  
20 more public health agencies with applicable information;

21 (2) May include website addresses and telephone numbers of one or  
22 more private organizations with applicable information;

23 (3) Can be replicated for other health and safety topics that are  
24 germane to public schools;

25 (4) Can be easily and readily shared with schools and districts  
26 in accordance with the requirements of section 2(2) of this act; and

27 (5) Includes format and content options that schools and school  
28 districts may use to reflect regional, demographic, and cultural  
29 differences."

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30 On page 1, line 6 of the title, after "resources;" strike the  
31 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter  
32 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.310 RCW; adding a  
33 new section to chapter 70.54 RCW; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: Retains the provisions of the underlying bill and adds that school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools must post a prominent link to the Department of Health information and make this information accessible through communications beginning in the 2023-24 school year.

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