Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 1225

Brief Description: Concerning school-based health centers.

Sponsors: Representatives Stonier, Bateman, Lekanoff, Johnson, J., Davis, Cody, Santos, Thai, Ortiz-Self, Ormsby, Valdez, Riccelli and Tharinger.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Establishes the School-Based Health Center program office within the Department of Health.

Hearing Date: 1/25/21

Staff: Corey Patton (786-7388).

Background:

A school-based health center (SBHC) is a student-focused health center located in or adjacent to a school that typically provides integrated medical, behavioral health, and other health care services. An SBHC is usually a collaboration between the community, the school, and a health care sponsor. The health care sponsor may be a community clinic or health care system, hospital, public health department, or tribal program. Under this model, the health care sponsor staffs and manages operations of the SBHC according to the school and community's needs and resources. The SBHCs typically are staffed by a primary care provider, behavioral health care provider, and clinic coordinator, although dental and other health professionals may also provide services. According to the Washington School-Based Health Alliance, there are more than 50 SBHCs throughout the state, 30 of which are established in Seattle public middle and high schools.

Summary of Bill:

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This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Department of Health must establish a school-based health center (SBHC) program office. The program office must:

- award grant funding to the SBHCs for planning, start-up costs, and ongoing operations costs;
- monitor and evaluate the SBHCs that receive grant funding;
- partner with a statewide nonprofit organization to provide training and technical assistance to the SBHCs; and
- coordinate with the statewide nonprofit organization providing training and technical assistance, educational service districts, the Health Care Authority, hosting school districts, and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner to provide support to the SBHCs.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 20, 2021.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.