

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5065

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Early Learning & K-12 Education, January 18, 2023

**Title:** An act relating to public school instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation.

**Brief Description:** Encouraging public school instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation.

**Sponsors:** Senators Short, Wellman, Lovick and Valdez.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/11/23, 1/18/23 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Encourages school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools that serve students in any of the grades 9 through 12 to offer instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation in at least one health class necessary for graduation, beginning in the 2023-24 school year.
- Allows this instruction to be offered in schools that serve students in grades K through 8, which may be adapted to be age-appropriate.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Wellman, Chair; Nobles, Vice Chair; Wilson, C., Vice Chair; Hawkins, Ranking Member; Dozier, Hunt, McCune, Mullet and Pedersen.

**Staff:** Ailey Kato (786-7434)

**Background:** Bone Marrow Donation. The Washington State Department of Health has a bone marrow donor recruitment and education program to educate residents about:

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- the need for bone marrow donors;
- the procedures required to become a registered donor;
- the procedures for donation; and
- the ability to obtain this information when applying or renewing a driver license or identicard.

State law provides that a person's status as a minor may not disqualify them from bone marrow donation.

The National Marrow Donor Program manages a registry of unrelated bone marrow donors.

Health Graduation Requirement. The State Board of Education establishes graduation requirements. One half credit of health is required for graduation.

**Summary of Bill:** School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools that serve students in any of the grades 9 through 12 are encouraged to offer instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation to students. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation may be included in at least one health class necessary for graduation.

This instruction may be an instructional program provided by the National Marrow Donor Program or other relevant nationally recognized organizations. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction must post a link on its website to this instructional program.

School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools that serve students in any of the grades K through 8 may offer this instruction and adapt it to be age-appropriate.

These schools may offer this instruction directly or arrange for the instruction to be provided by available community-based providers. The instruction does not have to be provided by certificated instructional staff.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Bone marrow donation is crucial in the medical field as it helps with a range of diseases and medical issues and can save lives. Generally, the age range of who can donate bone marrow is ages 18 through 49, so this instruction would help inform students about the opportunity to join the registry when they

turn 18 and potentially be a donor. It is important to increase the number of individuals on the registry in the United States, especially for people of color, to increase the chances of finding a match. This program is available for free, and the bill allows schools to decide whether to provide the program. To become part of the registry, all that is needed is a cheek swab, and bone marrow donation is often not invasive. Misconceptions about the bone marrow donation procedure often deter individuals from participating. This bill would help educate and inform.

CON: Following the COVID 19 pandemic, many students are experiencing a mental health crisis. Providing this instruction would only add to the stressors that young adults and students are already facing. This bill does not allow parents to opt their children out of this instruction. Children should not be exposed to medical decisions in school. It should be left to parents, faith leaders, and their medical providers to decide whether bone marrow donation is right for their child. Schools should be focusing on academics and addressing the learning loss that has resulted from the pandemic.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Shelly Short, Prime Sponsor; Jeana Moore, Jada Bascom Foundation; Britney Inglis; Leah Coutts, Be The Match.

CON: Julie Barrett, Conservative Ladies of Washington; Leslie Williams, CLW.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.