
SENATE BILL 5065

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Short, Wellman, Lovick, and Valdez

Prefiled 12/19/22. Read first time 01/09/23. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to public school instruction in awareness of bone
2 marrow donation; adding a new section to chapter 28A.210 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that it has
6 previously found that every three minutes an American child or adult
7 is diagnosed with a potentially fatal blood disease. For many of
8 these individuals, bone marrow transplantation is the only chance for
9 survival. The legislature finds that 70 percent of patients do not
10 have a fully matched donor in their family and rely on a registry to
11 find an unrelated donor. The legislature further finds that 40 to 71
12 percent of individuals with diverse heritage never find a bone marrow
13 match. The ultimate key to survivability lies in increasing the
14 number of bone marrow donors across all ethnicities, which will
15 increase the potential for a suitable match.

16 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to continue to increase
17 awareness of bone marrow donation by encouraging school districts,
18 charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools to offer
19 instruction on this topic to high school students in at least one
20 health class necessary for graduation. The legislature also intends

1 for this instruction to be optional for elementary and middle school
2 students.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Each school district, charter school, and state-tribal
6 education compact school that serves students in any of grades nine
7 through 12 is encouraged to offer instruction in awareness of bone
8 marrow donation to students as provided in this section. Beginning
9 with the 2023-24 school year, instruction in awareness of bone marrow
10 donation may be included in at least one health class necessary for
11 graduation.

12 (2)(a) Instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation under
13 this section may be an instructional program provided by the national
14 marrow donor program or other relevant nationally recognized
15 organization.

16 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
17 post on its website a link to the instructional program described in
18 this subsection (2).

19 (3) Each school district, charter school, and state-tribal
20 education compact school that serves students in any of grades
21 kindergarten through eight may offer instruction in awareness of bone
22 marrow donation to students. The instruction described in subsection
23 (2) of this section may be adapted to be age appropriate.

24 (4) School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education
25 compact schools may offer the instruction in awareness of bone marrow
26 donation directly or arrange for the instruction to be provided by
27 available community-based providers. The instruction does not have to
28 be provided by certificated instructional staff.

--- END ---