

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5641

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As Passed Senate, March 5, 2025

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

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

**Sponsors:** Senators Harris, Dozier, Riccelli and Short.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/11/25, 2/18/25 [DP].

**Floor Activity:** Passed Senate: 3/5/25, 49-0.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Encourages school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools to provide instruction in awareness of blood donation in addition to awareness of bone marrow donation.
- Allows this instruction to be included in at least one health class necessary for graduation, beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

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

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Wellman, Chair; Nobles, Vice Chair, K-12; Wilson, C., Vice Chair, Early Learning; Harris, Ranking Member; Cortes, Dozier, Hansen, Krishnadasan and McCune.

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

**Background:** Instruction in Awareness of Bone Marrow Donation. Current law encourages school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools that serve students in any of grades 9-12 to offer instruction in awareness of bone marrow

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donation. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, this instruction may be included in at least one health class necessary for graduation. Schools that serves students in any of grades kindergarten through eight may offer this instruction and adapt it to be age-appropriate.

Instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation must be an instructional program provided by the National Marrow Donor Program or other relevant nationally recognized organization. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction must post the instructional program on its website.

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.

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

Blood Donation. Current law allows any person 18 or older to be eligible to donate blood in any voluntary and non-compensatory blood program without the necessity of obtaining parental permission or authorization.

Any person ages 16 or 17 are eligible to donate blood after obtaining parental or legal guardian permission or authorization.

**Summary of Bill:** School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools are encouraged to offer instruction in awareness of blood donation in addition to awareness of bone marrow donation.

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, instruction in awareness of blood donation along with awareness of bone marrow donation may be included in at least one health class necessary for graduation.

This instruction must be an instructional program provided by the National Marrow Donor Program, the American Red Cross, America's Blood Centers, Bloodworks Northwest, or other relevant nationally recognized organizations focused on either bone marrow or blood donation, or both.

**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: Blood is a life-saving issue and donating blood is a selfless act. It takes a 1000 donors a day to support the system. Blood donation awareness needs to rise above all the information that is out there, and the message needs to connect with youth. Youth need to understand the importance of a diverse and sustainable blood supply to keep communities safe, and they need to know how easy it is to donate blood. This bill gives schools the choice to raise awareness of blood donation alongside bone marrow donation, which is logical and impactful. This instruction is not mandatory but a suggested framework.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Paul Harris, Prime Sponsor; Juan Cotto, BloodworksNW; Mark Dyce, Bloodworks Northwest; Giselle Lehmann, Bloodworks NW.

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