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HOUSE BILL 2038

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Brumsickle, Cody and Costa

Read first time 02/22/95. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to school nurses; adding a new section to chapter  
2 28A.210 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that schools are being  
5 asked to play an increasingly expanding role in protecting our  
6 children's health. Schools are responsible for monitoring the  
7 immunization of children, evaluating children's hearing and vision, and  
8 screening for scoliosis. Chronically ill children often require  
9 medically ordered treatment to enable them to attend school.  
10 Prescription medication is often required to be given to children  
11 during the school day. Schools are also responsible for identifying  
12 and reporting child abuse, identifying drug and alcohol problems,  
13 treating emergencies, providing counseling and assistance for teenage  
14 parents, and providing AIDS education. The legislature finds that  
15 expertise is needed in our schools to protect the health of students in  
16 our schools and to help students learn.

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

1 (1) Beginning with the 1995-96 school year, each school district  
2 shall maintain a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every two  
3 thousand five hundred full-time equivalent students. In the 1996-97  
4 school year, each school district shall maintain a ratio of not less  
5 than one school nurse for every two thousand full-time equivalent  
6 students. In the 1997-98 school year, each school district shall  
7 maintain a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every one  
8 thousand five hundred full-time equivalent students. In the 1998-99  
9 through the 2000-01 school years, each school district shall maintain  
10 a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every one thousand full-  
11 time equivalent students.

12 (2) The state board of education shall adopt rules providing for  
13 the initial and continuing certification for registered nurses who have  
14 worked as nurses in school settings for the equivalent of three school  
15 years within the six years immediately preceding the effective date of  
16 this section. Application shall be made within one year after the  
17 effective date of this section.

18 (3) A second class school district may continue to hire persons who  
19 meet the requirements of RCW 28A.210.300.

20 (4) As used in this section, "school nurse" means a person holding  
21 an educational staff associate certificate as a school nurse or a  
22 person who qualifies under subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** By December 1, 2000, the superintendent of  
24 public instruction shall submit a report to the legislature on the  
25 implementation of section 2 of this act and the impact of the services  
26 provided. The report shall include recommendations about whether  
27 funding for school nurses should be an ongoing responsibility of the  
28 state and part of basic education.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall expire  
30 June 30, 2001.

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