

SENATE BILL 5340

State of Washington **52nd Legislature** **1991 Regular Session**

By Senators Rinehart, West, Saling and Stratton.

Read first time January 29, 1991. 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; making an appropriation; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

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

1 expertise is needed in our schools to protect the health of students in
2 our schools and to help students learn.

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

5 (1) Beginning with the 1991-92 school year, each school district
6 shall maintain a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every two
7 thousand five hundred full-time equivalent students. In the 1992-93
8 school year, each school district shall maintain a ratio of not less
9 than one school nurse for every two thousand full-time equivalent
10 students. In the 1993-94 school year, each school district shall
11 maintain a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every one
12 thousand five hundred full-time equivalent students. In the 1994-95
13 through the 1996-97 school years, each school district shall maintain
14 a ratio of not less than one school nurse for every one thousand full-
15 time equivalent students.

16 (2) The state board of education shall adopt rules providing for
17 the initial and continuing certification for persons who have worked as
18 nurses in school settings for the equivalent of three school years
19 within the six years immediately preceding the effective date of this
20 section. Application shall be made within one year after the effective
21 date of this section. The rules shall provide a process for peer
22 review and a requirement that three hundred clock hours of approved in-
23 service training be completed within a specified time period.

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

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

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** By December 1, 1996 the superintendent
2 of public instruction shall submit a report to the legislature on the
3 implementation of section 2 of this act and the impact of the services
4 provided. The report shall include recommendations about whether
5 funding for school nurses should be an ongoing responsibility of the
6 state and part of basic education.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall
8 expire June 30, 1997.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of thirty-one million four
10 hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
11 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
12 fund to the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of
13 section 2 of this act.