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SENATE BILL 6136

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Pflug, Schoesler, Johnson, Schmidt and Esser

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the delivery of health care services  
2 for school-aged children; creating new sections; and providing an  
3 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 increasingly required to play an 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 Medication is often required to be given to children during the school  
12 day. Schools are asked to coordinate with families and community  
13 services to manage students with significant health problems and to  
14 make referrals to appropriate community services. Schools are required  
15 to abide by rules of confidentiality and to properly maintain health  
16 care records.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of superintendent of public  
18 instruction and the department of health shall collaborate and develop

1 a work group to assess school nursing services in class I school  
2 districts. The work group shall consult with representatives from the  
3 following groups: School nurses, schools, students, parents, teachers,  
4 health officials, and administrators.

5 (2) The work group shall:

6 (a) Study the needs of students for school nursing services by  
7 acuity levels, including the necessary skills to meet those demands.  
8 The work group also shall recommend to the legislature best practices  
9 in school nursing services, including the application of nurse  
10 delegation models in the public school setting with particular  
11 attention to the needs of small, rural schools, and geographically  
12 isolated schools and school districts. The work group shall make  
13 recommendations for school nursing services and may examine school  
14 nursing services by grade level. The work group shall assess whether  
15 funding for school nurses should continue as part of basic education;

16 (b) In collaboration with the school nurse corps and with public  
17 health departments in rural geographic areas, evaluate the feasibility  
18 of collaboration between school districts, educational services  
19 districts, and local public health departments or districts to provide  
20 school nursing services; and

21 (c) Explore the feasibility of blended funding options.

22 (3) As used in this section, "school nurse" means a person who:

23 (a) Holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing;

24 (b) Holds a valid license as a registered nurse (RN) in Washington  
25 state; and

26 (c) Is certified as an educational staff associate under the  
27 requirements established by the office of superintendent of public  
28 instruction.

29 (4) The office of superintendent of public instruction shall report  
30 its findings and plans for implementation to the legislature by March  
31 1, 2007.

32 (5) This section expires June 30, 2007.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The school nurse account is created in the  
34 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from gifts, grants, or  
35 endowments obtained under section 4 of this act must be deposited into  
36 the account.

1 Expenditures from the account may be used only to increase the  
2 nursing services in class I school districts. School districts with  
3 more than one thousand five hundred students for every school nurse  
4 shall receive priority for these funds. As used in this section,  
5 "school nurse" does not include nurses in the school nurse corps.

6 Only the superintendent of public instruction or the  
7 superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.  
8 The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,  
9 but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The office of the superintendent of public  
11 instruction may receive gifts, grants, or endowments from public or  
12 private sources that are made from time to time, in trust or otherwise,  
13 for the use and benefit of the purposes of section 3 of this act and  
14 spend gifts, grants, or endowments or income from the public or private  
15 sources to support the purpose in section 3 of this act, unless the  
16 receipt of the gifts, grants, or endowments violates RCW 42.17.710.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
18 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
19 June 30, 2006, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
20 void.

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