

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1346

65th Legislature
2017 Regular Session

Passed by the House February 27, 2017
Yeas 95 Nays 1

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 7, 2017
Yeas 47 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1346** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1346

Passed Legislature - 2017 Regular Session

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Springer, Muri, Dolan, Harris, Appleton, Tarleton, Cody, Santos, and Ortiz-Self)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying the authority of a nurse working in
2 a school setting; 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 finds that:

6 (a) A registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse
7 practitioner working in a school setting is authorized and
8 responsible for the nursing care of students to the extent that the
9 care is within the practice of nursing. A school administrator may
10 supervise a registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse
11 practitioner in aspects of employment other than the practice of
12 nursing;

13 (b) Nursing is governed by specific laws and regulations and
14 requires a unique license to practice. Clinical supervision of a
15 nurse is based on knowledge of the laws, regulations, and rules
16 governing nursing practice, nursing practice standards, and nursing
17 performance standards;

18 (c) Student health needs have changed dramatically over the last
19 twenty years. The number of students with special health care needs
20 has risen exponentially;

1 (d) School nurses are held accountable through chapter 18.79 RCW
2 and the uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, for errors in
3 nursing judgment and actions;

4 (e) Individuals who are not nurses are unqualified to make
5 nursing judgments and assessments;

6 (f) The independent nature of nursing has been recognized in both
7 statute and rule. For example, under RCW 18.79.040, "registered
8 nursing practice" includes the "administration, supervision,
9 delegation, and evaluation of nursing practice." Furthermore,
10 continuing competency rules recently adopted by the nursing care
11 quality assurance commission recognize and acknowledge the
12 independent nature of nursing; and

13 (g) The ability of a nurse to practice nursing without the
14 supervision of a nonnurse supervisor is particularly important given
15 the primacy of the nurse-patient relationship.

16 (2) It is therefore the intent of the legislature to reaffirm the
17 authority of a licensed nurse working in a school setting to practice
18 nursing without the supervision of a person who is not a licensed
19 nurse.

20 (3) It is not the intent of the legislature to:

21 (a) Prohibit a nonnurse from supervising a licensed nurse working
22 in a school setting with respect to matters other than the practice
23 of nursing, such as matters of administration, terms and conditions
24 of employment, and employee performance; or

25 (b) Require a school to provide clinical supervision for a
26 licensed nurse working in a school setting.

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

29 (1)(a) A registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse
30 practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW working in a school
31 setting is authorized and responsible for the nursing care of
32 students to the extent that the care is within the practice of
33 nursing as defined in this section.

34 (b) A school administrator may supervise a registered nurse or an
35 advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79
36 RCW in aspects of employment other than the practice of nursing as
37 defined in this section.

38 (c) Only a registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse
39 practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW may supervise, direct,

1 or evaluate a licensed nurse working in a school setting with respect
2 to the practice of nursing as defined in this section.

3 (2) Nothing in this section:

4 (a) Prohibits a nonnurse supervisor from supervising, directing,
5 or evaluating a licensed nurse working in a school setting with
6 respect to matters other than the practice of nursing;

7 (b) Requires a registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse
8 practitioner to be clinically supervised in a school setting; or

9 (c) Prohibits a nonnurse supervisor from conferring with a
10 licensed nurse working in a school setting with respect to the
11 practice of nursing.

12 (3) Within existing funds, the superintendent of public
13 instruction shall notify each school district in this state of the
14 requirements of this section.

15 (4) For purposes of this section, "practice of nursing" means:

16 (a) Registered nursing practice as defined in RCW 18.79.040,
17 advanced registered nursing practice as defined in RCW 18.79.050, and
18 licensed practical nursing practice as defined in RCW 18.79.060,
19 including, but not limited to:

20 (i) The administration of medication pursuant to a medication or
21 treatment order; and

22 (ii) The decision to summon emergency medical assistance; and

23 (b) Compliance with any state or federal statute or
24 administrative rule specifically regulating licensed nurses,
25 including any statute or rule defining or establishing standards of
26 patient care or professional conduct or practice.

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