
Education Committee

SB 5065

Brief Description: Encouraging public school instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation.

Sponsors: Senators Short, Wellman, Lovick and Valdez.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Encourages schools serving high school students to offer instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation in a health class necessary for graduation.
- Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to post a link on its website to programs that provide instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation.

Hearing Date: 3/1/23

Staff: Megan Wargacki (786-7194).

Background:

Bone Marrow Donations.

Bone marrow, found in the center of large bones, produces stem cells. Stem cell transplants are used to treat certain cancers and other blood and immune system diseases. In Washington, a person's status as a minor may not disqualify him or her from bone marrow donation.

Adults interested in donating stem cells from bone marrow may join a registry to be matched with a patient looking for a bone marrow donor. The National Marrow Donor Program is a nonprofit organization that manages the national bone marrow registry and offers education on bone marrow donation and awareness.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Washington Department of Health is required to have a bone marrow donor recruitment and education program.

Health Education.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction adopts state learning standards that describe what public school students must know and be able to do at each grade level. The state learning standards for health and physical education include the development of knowledge and skills to be physically active, eat nutritiously, access reliable health information and services, communicate effectively, and set health-enhancing goals.

Among other requirements to qualify for graduation from a public high school, students must complete 24 credits, including one half credit in health.

Summary of Bill:

Each school district, charter school, and state-tribal education compact school that serves students in ninth through twelfth grade is encouraged to offer instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation to students. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation may be included in at least one health class necessary for graduation.

Each school district, charter school, and state-tribal education compact school that serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade may offer instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation to students. The instruction may be adapted to be age appropriate.

Instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation may 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 on its website a link to the instructional program.

Instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation may be provided by schools directly or by available community-based providers. The instruction does not have to be provided by certificated instructional staff.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Preliminary fiscal note available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.