
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 224 (File 421, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires each local or regional board of education to maintain a staffing ratio in its school district of at least one school nurse or nurse practitioner for every 750 students. It also allows a school nurse or nurse practitioner to provide services to more than one board as long as the minimum staffing ratio is met. By law, boards of education must appoint at least one school nurse or nurse practitioner for their educational district.

The bill also requires each school nurse or nurse practitioner practicing as such for one year or less to complete the school nurse orientation program offered by the State Department of Education (SDE) within one year after being hired.

Under the bill, nurses and nurse practitioners must also meet the educational requirements specified in regulations adopted by the SDE, in consultation with the Department of Public Health. Existing law already requires them to be qualified under regulations.

*Senate Amendment "A" specifies that the orientation program is (1) offered only by SDE, and not both SDE and the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, and (2) only required for school nurses or nurse practitioners with one year of experience or less.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 10 (03/24/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 21 (04/22/2014)