



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 468

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6796

House of Representatives, April 7, 2015

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-212 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) (1) Each local or regional board of education shall (A) appoint
4 one or more school nurses or nurse practitioners, and (B) maintain a
5 staffing ratio that is not less than one school nurse or nurse practitioner
6 for each seven hundred fifty students. A school nurse or nurse
7 practitioner may provide services to one or more local or regional
8 boards of education, provided such boards ensure that the staffing
9 requirements prescribed in this subdivision are met.

10 (2) Such school nurses and nurse practitioners appointed by such
11 boards shall [be qualified pursuant to regulations] meet the
12 educational requirements and other qualifications specified in
13 regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 by

14 the State Board of Education in consultation with the Department of
 15 Public Health. In addition to meeting such educational requirements
 16 and other qualifications, each school nurse or nurse practitioner shall
 17 complete the school nurse orientation program offered by the state
 18 Department of Education and the Association of School Nurses of
 19 Connecticut not later than one year after his or her date of hire.

20 (3) Such school nurses may also act as visiting nurses in the town,
 21 may visit the homes of pupils in the public schools and shall assist in
 22 executing the orders of the school medical advisor, if there is any in
 23 such town, and perform such other duties as are required by such
 24 board.

25 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
 26 regulation of Connecticut state agencies, nothing in this section shall
 27 be construed to prohibit the administering of medications by parents
 28 or guardians to their own children on school grounds.

29 (c) School nurses and nurse practitioners appointed by or under
 30 contract with any local or regional board of education and any nurse
 31 provided to a nonpublic school under the provisions of section 10-217a
 32 shall submit to a criminal history records check in accordance with the
 33 provisions of section 29-17a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	10-212

PH *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE - Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

This bill requires each local or regional board of education to maintain a staffing ratio of at least one school nurse or nurse practitioner for every 750 students. It is anticipated that this requirement would result in local and regional school districts hiring additional school nurses, at an estimated average annual salary of \$55,000 plus fringe benefits. It is estimated that approximately 18% of schools are not in compliance with this new requirement, and would be required to hire an additional nurse.

The bill also requires that newly hired nurses complete the school nurse orientation program offered by the State Department of Education and the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut within one year of being hired. The cost of this course is \$100 per nurse, paid by the local and regional school district.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320768>

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6796*****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 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 education district.

The bill also requires each school nurse or nurse practitioner to complete the school nurse orientation program offered by the State Department of Education and the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut within one year of being hired. It appears that this requirement could only be implemented for newly hired nurses.

Under the bill, nurses and nurse practitioners must also meet the educational requirements specified in regulations adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE), in consultation with Department of Public Health. Current law already requires them to be qualified under SBE regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 4 (03/23/2015)