



# House of Representatives

## File No. 882

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**(Reprint of File No. 468)**

House Bill No. 6796  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedules "B" and "C"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 22, 2015

### ***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 Section 10-212 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, 2016*):

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 within the school district under  
7 such board's jurisdiction. A school nurse or nurse practitioner may  
8 provide services to one or more local or regional boards of education,  
9 provided such boards ensure that the staffing requirements prescribed  
10 in this subdivision are met. A local or regional board of education may  
11 annually request a waiver from the staffing ratio requirement in a  
12 manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. The  
13 commissioner may approve a waiver request for a period of one year  
14 if, in the commissioner's discretion, the maintenance of such staffing

15 ratio, as balanced against other needs of the school district under such  
16 board's jurisdiction, would result in an adverse impact on the student  
17 population.

18 (2) Such school nurses and nurse practitioners appointed by such  
19 boards shall [be qualified pursuant to regulations] meet the  
20 educational requirements and other qualifications specified in  
21 regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 by  
22 the State Board of Education in consultation with the Department of  
23 Public Health. In addition to meeting such educational requirements  
24 and other qualifications, each school nurse or nurse practitioner shall  
25 complete the school nurse orientation program offered by the state  
26 Department of Education and the Association of School Nurses of  
27 Connecticut not later than one year after his or her date of hire,  
28 provided such school nurse or nurse practitioner has not previously  
29 completed the school nurse orientation program.

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

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-212
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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	None	See Below

**Explanation**

This bill requires, beginning in FY 17, 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 allows local and regional boards of education to apply for a request for a waiver to be exempt from the required staffing ratio for one year, which could delay costs into FY 18.

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, if they have not already completed the course. The cost of this course is \$100 per nurse, paid by the local and regional school district.

House "B" delays the cost in the underlying bill by making the bill

effective on July 1, 2016 rather than July 1, 2015. Additionally, House "B" potentially reduced the cost in the underlying bill by allowing local and regional boards of education to apply for a request for a waiver to be exempt from the required staffing ratio for one year.

House "C" clarifies that if a school nurse or nurse practitioner has previously completed the school nurse orientation program, they do not have to do so again.

### ***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>*

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6796 (as amended by House "B" and "C")\******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 districts.

The bill allows a local or regional board of education to annually request from the education commissioner a waiver from the staffing ratio requirement. The commissioner may approve the request for one year if he determines that maintaining the staffing ratio would have an adverse impact on students when balanced against the school district's other needs.

Additionally, the bill 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, unless he or she already completed the program.

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 the Department of Public Health. Current law already requires them to be qualified under SBE regulations.

\*House Amendment "B" (1) specifies that the staffing requirements apply to each school district under a board's jurisdiction, (2) allows boards to annually request a waiver from the staffing requirement, and (3) changes the bill's effective date from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016.

\*House Amendment "C" specifies that school nurses and nurse practitioners must only complete the school nurse orientation program once.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 22 Nay 4 (03/23/2015)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 31 Nay 24 (04/29/2015)