

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 845*

Short Title: Healthy Schools Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Lee and Purcell.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

April 13, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

**AN ACT TO CREATE A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN OUR PUBLIC
SCHOOLS BY HIRING ONE HUNDRED FIFTY SCHOOL NURSES PER YEAR
TO REACH A RATIO OF ONE SCHOOL NURSE FOR EVERY SEVEN
HUNDRED FIFTY STUDENTS BY THE YEAR 2010.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1.(a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) for fiscal year 1999-2000 to hire 150 school nurses and the sum of twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) for fiscal year 2000-2001 to hire an additional 150 school nurses. Disbursement of these monies by the Department shall be based on criteria established by a Healthy Schools Committee composed of one representative each from the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Instruction, NC Center for Nursing, North Carolina Nurses Association, School Nurses Association of North Carolina, North Carolina Hospital Association, North Carolina Pediatric Society, Area Health Education Center, the UNC Council of Deans of Education, the Council of Deans of Baccalaureate/Higher Degree Nursing Education Programs, and the North Carolina Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators. A local committee composed of representatives from the schools, health department, and health care providers shall develop a proposal based on these criteria. Funds shall be allocated by the Department

1 for these school nurse positions upon submission of a written plan with the intent to fund
2 at least one position for each of the 117 school districts until the ratio of one school nurse
3 for each 750 students is reached within that school district.

4 Nurses hired pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be used to ensure that
5 all schools are served by qualified school nurses responsible for providing or arranging
6 for the following school health services in collaboration with local providers of primary
7 and preventive health care:

- 8 (1) Developing and implementing plans for preventing and responding to
9 communicable disease outbreaks;
- 10 (2) Developing and implementing plans for emergency medical assistance
11 for students and staff members;
- 12 (3) On-site supervision of specialized clinical services and associated health
13 teaching for students with chronic conditions, other special health needs,
14 and developmental disabilities;
- 15 (4) Routine administration of medication and associated health teaching or
16 appropriate arrangements for these services by other school staff;
- 17 (5) Active participation in establishing and implementing health-related
18 policies for schools or school systems;
- 19 (6) Developing and maintaining effective links between schools and local
20 health care providers for consultation and service provision including
21 community and hospital-based providers of medical and dental services;
- 22 (7) Health-related teaching and consultation for students and families as
23 needed to address specific health needs including obtaining access to
24 needed health care services and augmenting ongoing health education
25 activities;
- 26 (8) Providing or arranging for routine health assessments, such as vision,
27 hearing, or dental screening, and follow-up referrals as necessary; and
- 28 (9) Assuring that State-mandated health-related activities are completed
29 within the school setting.

30 Section 1.(b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
31 Health and Human Services the sum of six hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$620,000)
32 for fiscal year 1999-2000 and the sum of nine hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$930,000)
33 for fiscal year 2000-2001 to provide funding for computers, travel reimbursement, health
34 room supplies, and other equipment as needed by school nurses hired under the
35 provisions of this act.

36 Section 1.(c) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
37 Health and Human Services the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for
38 fiscal year 1999-2000 and the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for fiscal
39 year 2000-2001 to develop postbaccalaureate training programs and provide incentives to
40 registered nurses to enter the field of school nursing. A consortium of representatives of
41 the Department of Health and Human Services School Nurse Consultants, the Council of
42 Deans of Baccalaureate/Higher Degree Nursing Education Programs, the North Carolina
43 AHEC Nursing Council, the UNC Council of Deans of Education, the School Nurses

1 Association of North Carolina, the North Carolina Association of Public Health Nurse
2 Administrators, and the North Carolina Center for Nursing shall work collaboratively to
3 develop these educational programs.

4 Section 1.(d) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Nursing Scholars
5 Commission the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) for fiscal
6 year 1999-2000 and the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for fiscal
7 year 2000-2001 to provide funding for 25 RN to BSN scholarships for registered nurses
8 pursuing a career in school nursing. In addition, the Nursing Scholars Commission shall
9 be requested to allocate funding from its existing funds for 25 baccalaureate scholarships
10 in each year of the biennium for students pursuing a career in school nursing.

11 Section 2. All school nurses employed under this act must be currently
12 licensed as registered nurses in North Carolina, be baccalaureate prepared, and either
13 nationally certified as a school nurse or become certified within three years of being hired
14 by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the National Association of School
15 Nurses.

16 Section 3. When employing school nurses under this act, certified school
17 nurses shall be placed on the Grade 71 salary schedule. School nurses working toward
18 certification shall be placed on the Grade 70 salary schedule.

19 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1999.