

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	10 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Komp, Maurer, Roblan, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Kevin T. Christiansen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/4, 4/20, 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school districts to ensure districts have sufficient numbers of nurses to provide one registered nurse or school nurse for every 125 medically fragile students and one registered nurse or school nurse, or one licensed practical nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse or school nurse, for each nursing-dependent student. Requires each district to ensure district has sufficient numbers of registered nurses to provide one registered nurse or school nurse for every 225 medically complex students. Encourages school districts to have one registered nurse or school nurse for every 750 students in school district. Suggests timeline of July 1, 2020 for attaining goal of one registered nurse or school nurse for every 750 students. Provides that school district may satisfy requirements regarding the number of nurses available per student by using the most-cost effective means available. Requires Department of Education to submit to Board of Education and interim committee related to education an annual report no later than October 1 of each year. Defines medically fragile student, nursing-dependent student, and medically complex student. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for school nurses in schools
- Distinction between registered and licensed nurses
- Findings and recommendations of the Task Force on School Nurses

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces definition section and modifies or adds definitions for licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, and school nurse. Requires that each school district has sufficient level of nursing personnel to provide one registered nurse or school nurse for every 125 medically fragile students. Requires one registered nurse or school nurse, or one licensed practical nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse or school nurse for each nursing-dependent student. Changes references from licensed nurse to registered nurse. Provides that school district may satisfy requirements regarding the number of nurses available per student by using the most-cost effective means available.

BACKGROUND: According to the National Association of Student Nurses, Oregon is currently ranked 49th in the nation for its nurse-to-student ratio. Because of the high number of students per nurse, nurses are spread thinly across the state, often covering multiple schools. House Bill 2773 (2007) established a task force to study the current status of, and provide recommendations for, constructing the future of school nursing in Oregon. House Bill 2693A stems from some of those findings. The measure provides specific requirements regarding the number of nurses per student that each district should have.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.