

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	9 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Fagan, Gomberg, Gorsek, Huffman, Parrish, Reardon, Sprenger, Whisnant, Gelser
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Rick Berkobien, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/29, 5/29

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs State Board of Education to adopt rules for administration of pre-measured doses of epinephrine for students or other individuals on school premises who are having severe allergic reactions, regardless if the person has a prescription for the medication. Requires Board to adopt guidelines for management of students with life-threatening food allergies. Directs school district board to adopt policies and procedures based on rules and guidelines adopted by State Board of Education. Allows entity that employs persons to acquire premeasured doses of epinephrine for administration in emergency situation. Specifies requirements for training curriculum. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2013.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Similar legislation in other states
- Comparison with House Bill 2749A
- Exercise as a cause of problem
- Risk factors of using an EpiPen
- Effect of amendment
- Experiences of parents who have children with severe food allergies

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Specifies requirements for training curriculum. Resolves conflicts with House Bill 2749A.

**BACKGROUND:** An epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen) is a medical device used to deliver a measured dose (or doses) of epinephrine (also known as adrenaline) using autoinjector technology, most frequently for the treatment of acute allergic reactions to avoid or treat the onset of anaphylactic shock. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening allergic reaction that can occur quickly (as fast as within a couple of minutes). Symptoms of a life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) vary, but can include hives, itching, flushing, and swelling of the lips, tongue, and roof of mouth. The airway is often affected, resulting in tightness of the throat, chest tightness and difficulty breathing. These reactions can also be accompanied by chest pain, low blood pressure, dizziness and headaches. Recent studies have shown that one in 13 children in this country has a food allergy, and 40 percent of those may be at risk for a severe reaction.

The issue of EpiPens in schools received national attention last year after Ammaria Johnson, a Virginia first grader, died after going into cardiac arrest at school from experiencing a severe reaction to peanuts. Ammaria had a prescription for an EpiPen, but did not have it at school when she fell ill.