

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1668

By: Representative Stephens

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH STATUS AND EDUCATIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT OF ARKANSAS YOUTH BY PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATE
SCHOOL NURSE TO STUDENT RATIO WHEREBY THE HEALTH NEEDS OF EACH
CHILD WILL BE ADEQUATELY AND SAFELY MET."

WHEREAS, the legislature finds that health problems often are not prevented or detected in early stages because so many of the state's children are not in a health care system and a multidisciplinary team including school nurses can provide the preventive health services needed to facilitate the student's optimal physical, mental, emotional and social growth and development, as well as to help prevent serious health problems which could be more difficult and costly to address later,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Every child of school age shall be provided with school nurse services. Provided, however, that the number of general population pupils under the care of each school nurse shall not exceed one thousand (1,000) and that the number of pupils with mental and physical handicaps shall not exceed one nurse for every two hundred twenty-five (225) pupils in the mainstream populations and one nurse for every one hundred twenty-five (125) pupils in the severely or profoundly handicapped population.

SECTION 2. The school nurse intervention program shall offer any of the following specific preventive services, and other additional services appropriate to each grade level and the age and maturity of the pupils:

- (a) Conducts health screenings:

- Vision
- Hearing
- Dental
- Scoliosis
- Height and weight
- Others as needs indicate
- (b) Conducts physical assessments
- (c) Provides emergency first aid
- (d) Evaluates and assesses health needs
- (e) Provides health counseling:
 - Chronic illness
 - Nutrition
 - Disease prevention
 - Positive life-styles
 - Self-esteem
- (f) Conducts health related classroom presentations
- (g) Evaluates and monitors communicable diseases and other illnesses
- (h) Serves as a resource person for faculty, staff and students

SECTION 3. Upon each student's enrollment, the parent or a guardian shall be provided with information regarding the scope of the school nurse intervention program. The parent or guardian may provide the school administration with a written statement refusing all or any part of the nursing service. No child shall be required to undergo hearing, vision, scoliosis screening or any other physical examination or tests whose parent objects thereto on the grounds such screening, physical examination or tests are contrary to his sincerely held religious beliefs.

SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

