

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1826

5 By: Representative J. Mayberry
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL NURSES; TO REQUIRE PUBLIC
9 SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS; TO
10 REQUIRE LICENSED REGISTERED NURSES EMPLOYED OR
11 CONTRACTED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN
12 NURSING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; TO REQUIRE THE
13 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO
14 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL
15 NURSES; TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO
16 PARTICIPATE IN A HEALTH SERVICES SURVEY; AND FOR
17 OTHER PURPOSES.
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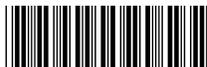
Subtitle

21 TO REQUIRE SCHOOL NURSES TO PARTICIPATE
22 IN NURSING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; TO
23 REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EDUCATION
24 PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL NURSES; AND TO REQUIRE
25 PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN A HEALTH
26 SERVICES SURVEY.
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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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31 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-706 is amended to read as follows:
32 6-18-706. School nurse – Definition.

33 (a) Each public school district shall provide a health services
34 program under the direction of a licensed registered nurse in accordance with
35 the laws of the State of Arkansas and Division of Elementary and Secondary
36 Education rules.



1 ~~(a)~~(b) In order to improve the health status and educational
2 achievement of the children of this state, the General Assembly hereby
3 determines that an appropriate school nurse-to-student ratio is essential to
4 effectively meet the healthcare needs of these children.

5 ~~(b)~~(c)(1) For purposes of this section, "school nurse" means a
6 licensed nurse engaging in school nursing activities.

7 (2) A school nurse shall practice within the scope of practice
8 applicable to the certification of the school nurse.

9 ~~(d)~~(1) Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, at least one (1)
10 licensed registered nurse employed or contracted by each public school
11 district shall annually participate in nursing professional development
12 related to Arkansas school nursing mandates and practices, as determined
13 appropriate by the division.

14 (2) The division, in conjunction with the Department of Health,
15 shall develop and implement an education program for school nurses that is
16 designed to improve the quality and delivery of health services for students.

17 ~~(e)~~(1)~~(e)~~(1) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, all school
18 districts shall have no fewer than the full-time equivalent of one (1) school
19 nurse per seven hundred fifty (750) students or the proportionate ratio
20 thereof, or, if feasible, one (1) school nurse on each public school campus.

21 (2) In districts having a high concentration of children with
22 disabling conditions as determined by the State Board of Education, the ratio
23 of school nurses to students should be one (1) to four hundred (400) in those
24 schools so designated.

25 (3) In a district that provides a center for profoundly disabled
26 students, the ratio should be one (1) school nurse per one hundred twenty-
27 five (125) students at that center.

28 ~~(d)~~(1)~~(f)~~(1) School nurses may be employed or provided by contract or
29 agreement with other agencies or individuals provided that the prescribed
30 ratio and equivalency are maintained.

31 (2) However, no school nurse may be employed by, or contract
32 with, any public secondary or elementary school of this state except with the
33 prior approval of the local school district board of directors.

34 ~~(e)~~(1)~~(g)~~(1) The provisions of this section shall be effective only
35 upon the availability of state funds.

36 (2) Available funds shall be distributed to school districts

1 based on the previous year's three-quarter average daily membership.

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 3 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-709 is amended to read as follows:
 4 6-18-709. Annual reports of school nurse statistics required.

5 (a)(1) Annually, a public school district shall participate in the
 6 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education health services survey related
 7 to:

8 (A) On-campus healthcare needs of public school students;

9 (B) On-campus healthcare services; and

10 (C) The availability of health care to other public school
 11 district personnel and nursing facilities.

12 (2) Each public school district shall report the information
 13 reported in the health services survey to the local school district board of
 14 directors.

15 (b) Annually, by August 31, a school district shall report the
 16 following to the ~~Division of Elementary and Secondary Education~~ division:

17 (1) The number of full-time nurses employed by the school
 18 district;

19 (2) The number of part-time nurses employed by the school
 20 district;

21 (3) The number of full-time nurses with whom the school district
 22 contracts for service;

23 (4) The number of part-time nurses with whom the school district
 24 contracts for service;

25 (5) The level of licensure of each nurse working in the school
 26 district;

27 (6) The highest degree obtained for each nurse working in the
 28 school district;

29 (7) The amount of pay, including without limitation the source
 30 of funding, for each nurse working in the school district; and

31 (8) The number of students in the school district that are in
 32 each nursing acuity level as follows:

33 (A) Level 1 for students with occasional health concerns
 34 and routine health screenings at a ratio of one (1) school nurse per seven
 35 hundred fifty (750) students;

36 (B) Level 2 for students with healthcare concerns and

1 those that require an individualized healthcare plan at a ratio of one (1)
2 school nurse per four hundred (400) students;

3 (C) Level 3 for students with medically complex conditions
4 at a ratio of one (1) school nurse per two hundred twenty-five (225)
5 students;

6 (D) Level 4 for students with medically fragile conditions
7 at a ratio of one (1) school nurse per one hundred twenty-five (125)
8 students; and

9 (E) Level 5 for students that are nursing dependent at a
10 ratio of one (1) school nurse per one (1) student.

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