

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4412**

By Delegate Westfall

[Introduced January 10, 2024; Referred to  
the Committee on Education then Finance ]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-5-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
 2 requiring each county school board to employ at least one full time school nurse for each  
 3 public school.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**§18-5-22. Medical and dental inspection; school nurses; specialized health procedures; establishment of council of school nurses.**

1 (a) County boards shall provide proper medical and dental inspections for all pupils  
 2 attending the schools of their county and have the authority to take any other action necessary to  
 3 protect the pupils from infectious diseases, including the authority to require from all school  
 4 personnel employed in their county, certificates of good health and of physical fitness.

5 (b) Each county board shall employ full time at least one school nurse for each public  
 6 school: ~~for every one thousand five hundred kindergarten through seventh grade pupils in net~~  
 7 ~~enrollment or major fraction thereof: *Provided*, That each county shall employ full time at least one~~  
 8 ~~school nurse: *Provided, however*, That a county board may contract with a public health~~  
 9 ~~department for services considered equivalent to those required by this section in accordance with~~  
 10 ~~a plan to be approved by the state board: *Provided further* Provided, That the state board shall~~  
 11 promulgate rules requiring the employment of school nurses in excess of the number required by  
 12 this section to ensure adequate provision of services to severely handicapped pupils. An  
 13 appropriation may be made to the state department to be distributed to county boards to support  
 14 school health service needs that exceed the capacity of staff as mandated in this section. Each  
 15 county board shall apply to the State Superintendent for receipt of this funding in a manner set  
 16 forth by the state superintendent that assesses and ~~takes into account~~ considers varying acuity  
 17 levels of students with specialized health care needs.

18 (c) Any person employed as a school nurse ~~must~~ shall be a registered professional nurse  
 19 properly licensed by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses in

20 accordance with §30-7-1 *et seq.* of this code.

21 (d) Specialized health procedures that require the skill, knowledge and judgment of a  
22 licensed health professional may be performed only by school nurses, other licensed school  
23 health care providers as provided in this section, or school employees who have been trained and  
24 retrained every two years who are subject to the supervision and approval by school nurses. After  
25 assessing the health status of the individual student, a school nurse, in collaboration with the  
26 student's physician, parents and, in some instances, an individualized education program team,  
27 may delegate certain health care procedures to a school employee who shall be trained pursuant  
28 to this section, considered competent, have consultation with, and be monitored or supervised by  
29 the school nurse: *Provided*, That nothing in this section prohibits any school employee from  
30 providing specialized health procedures or any other prudent action to aid any person who is in  
31 acute physical distress or requires emergency assistance. For the purposes of this section  
32 "specialized health procedures" means, but is not limited to, catheterization, suctioning of  
33 tracheostomy, naso-gastric tube feeding or gastrostomy tube feeding. "School employee" means  
34 "teachers" as defined in §18-1-1 of this code and "aides" as defined in §18A-4-8 of this code.  
35 Commencing with the school year beginning on July 1, 2002, "school employee" also means  
36 "secretary I", "secretary II" and "secretary III" as defined in §18A-4-8 of this code: *Provided*,  
37 *however*, That a "secretary I", "secretary II" and "secretary II" shall be limited to the dispensing of  
38 medications.

39 (e) Any school service employee who elects, or is required by this section, to undergo  
40 training or retraining to provide, in the manner specified in this section, the specialized health care  
41 procedures for those students for which the selection has been approved by both the principal and  
42 the county board shall receive additional pay of at least one pay grade higher than the highest pay  
43 grade for which the employee is paid: *Provided*, That any training required in this section may be  
44 considered in lieu of required in-service training of the school employee and a school employee  
45 may not be required to elect to undergo the training or retraining: *Provided, however*, That

46 commencing with July 1, 1989, any newly employed school employee in the field of special  
47 education is required to undergo the training and retraining as provided in this section: *Provided*  
48 *further*, That if an employee who holds a class title of an aide is employed in a school and the aide  
49 has received the training, pursuant to this section, then an employee in the field of special  
50 education is not required to perform the specialized health care procedures.

51 (f) Each ~~county~~ school nurse, as designated and defined by this section, shall perform a  
52 needs assessment. These nurses shall meet on the basis of the area served by their regional  
53 educational service agency, prepare recommendations, and elect a representative to serve on the  
54 council of school nurses established under this section.

55 (g) There shall be a council of school nurses which shall be convened by the State Board of  
56 Education. This council shall prepare a procedural manual and shall provide recommendations  
57 regarding a training course to the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health who shall consult  
58 with the State Department of Education. The state board ~~then has the authority to~~ may promulgate  
59 a rule in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3B-1 et seq. of this code to implement the training  
60 and to create standards used by those school nurses and school employees performing  
61 specialized health procedures. The council shall meet every two years to review the certification  
62 and training program regarding school employees.

63 (h) The State Board of Education shall work in conjunction with county boards to provide  
64 training and retraining every two years as recommended by the Council of School Nurses and  
65 implemented by the rule promulgated by the state board.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require county boards to employ at least one full time nurse for each public school.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.