



[HF 795](#) – Seizure Safe Schools (LSB1726HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New
Requester – Representative Molly Donahue

Description

[House File 795](#) requires specified training for school personnel and for each school district and nonpublic school to have at least one school employee who is trained to respond to a student experiencing seizure symptoms and administer or assist with the self-administration of medication or prescribed medical procedure. The Bill outlines requirements for the student's parent or guardian responsibility to authorize the administration of medication, and for the creation of an individual health plan and distribution of a seizure action plan for those students diagnosed with a seizure disorder. The Bill provides immunity from criminal or civil liability for those providing services as detailed. The Department of Education (DE) is required to develop and implement a statewide seizure education program, and in collaboration with the Department of Public Health establish a school district health-related training requirements task force.

Background

An individual healthcare plan (IHP) is a document created to support a student with a medical condition that may require care while at school. The licensed registered school nurse, or other licensed qualified health care practitioner, creates the IHP with the student, family, health care provider, and school team to coordinate health services at school. For a student diagnosed with epilepsy or a seizure disorder, the IHP can incorporate a seizure response plan to detail needed steps for seizure management including safety protocols, proper response to seizures, administration or assistance for self-administration of medication or prescribed electrical stimulation, and recognition of an emergency situation.

Often times the school nurse will be notified to assist with a student experiencing a seizure. Currently in school districts there are 650 full-time school nurses and 110 part-time school nurses. Teachers and other support staff may be trained as well when working with a student identified to have epilepsy or a seizure disorder. The Epilepsy Foundation does provide free online [training](#) for school personnel and students.

Assumptions

- According to the DE [Medication Administration Manual](#), qualified personnel may provide medication administration. Qualified personnel include a registered nurse or school personnel qualified to administer medication. For school personnel to be qualified, they must complete the medication administration course provided by the DE every five years and receive an annual certification signed by the school nurse after skills demonstrations have been completed. This Bill does not require a registered nurse in each school building.
- School personnel will meet the training requirements during already established professional development time using free training as provided or similar to what is provided by the Epilepsy Foundation.

Fiscal Impact

There may be costs for school districts and nonpublic schools for training conducted outside of already established professional development time or for hourly staff employees.

Costs associated with the School District Health-Related Task Force are expected to be minimal as most Task Force members are expected to be employees of the DE and the Department of Public Health and pursuant to Iowa Code section [70A.1](#), are not eligible for per diem expenses.

Sources

Department of Education
Epilepsy Foundation

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 10, 2021

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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