

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
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SENATE BILL DRS45455-MTa-163A*

Short Title: Ensure Healthy Schools/COVID-19. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Nickel, Mohammed, and Peterson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL NURSE IN EVERY SCHOOL IN A
3 LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT BEGINNING IN THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL
4 YEAR AND TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO MEET THAT
5 REQUIREMENT.

6 Whereas, the health, well-being, and educational success of public school students in
7 North Carolina are top priorities of the General Assembly; and

8 Whereas, employing school nurses has been shown to have a critical and positive
9 impact on the health, well-being, and educational success of public school students in
10 kindergarten through grade 12 due to services directed toward keeping students healthy, in class,
11 and ready to learn; and

12 Whereas, there has previously been insufficient funding to provide for a full-time,
13 permanent nurse in every school in a local school administrative unit in North Carolina; and

14 Whereas, the impacts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have disrupted and
15 will continue to disrupt school schedules and families' lives; and

16 Whereas, there is now an even greater need to ensure that all local school
17 administrative units can provide a full-time, permanent nurse for every school in the unit; and

18 Whereas, it is the goal of the General Assembly to respond to the critical impacts of
19 COVID-19 on our schools, our students, and their families and communities, with appropriate
20 investments and programs; Now, therefore,

21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

23 "(64) To Provide at Least One School Nurse in Every School. – Local boards of
24 education shall ensure that each school within the local school administrative
25 unit is staffed by at least one full-time, permanent school nurse."

26 **SECTION 1.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
27 Public Instruction the sum of one hundred two million dollars (\$102,000,000) in recurring funds
28 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to increase the Instructional Support Allotment. These funds shall
29 be used to increase positions for school nurses in order to provide at least one full-time,
30 permanent school nurse for every school in the unit.

31 **SECTION 1.(c)** It is the intent of the General Assembly that the funds provided to
32 local school administrative units pursuant to this act will supplement and not supplant any funds
33 already provided for school nurses.

34 **SECTION 2.(a)** The provisions of the State Budget Act, Chapter 143C of the
35 General Statutes, are reenacted and shall remain in full force and effect and are incorporated in
36 this act by reference.



1 **SECTION 2.(b)** Except where expressly repealed or amended by this act, the
2 provisions of any other legislation enacted during the 2019 Regular Session of the General
3 Assembly expressly appropriating funds to an agency, a department, or an institution covered
4 under this act shall remain in effect.

5 **SECTION 2.(c)** If House Bill 966, 2019 Regular Session, becomes law, and any
6 provision of that act or a provision of the Committee Report described in Section 42.2 of that act
7 conflicts with this act, this act shall control.

8 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2020. Section 1(a) of this act applies
9 beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.