



Senate Education Committee

Senator Mike Folmer
Chairman

Room 170 Main Capitol • Senate Box 203048, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3048 • 717-787-5708 • Fax: 717-787-3455

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 871, Printer's No. 1090

Prime Sponsor: Senator Browne

A. SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 871 amends the Public School Code to provide for diabetes care in schools.

B. BILL ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 871 amends the Public School Code to provide for diabetes care in schools, including the training of school employees in diabetes care and management and the possession and use of diabetes medication.

In order for a student to receive diabetes-related care in a school setting, the student's parent or guardian must provide the school entity with written authorization for care and instructions from the student's health care provider.

In addition, a student who self-administers diabetes medication and monitoring equipment must also provide approval from a health care provider to self-administer with detailed information on the drug, dose, medication times and serious reactions. The parent or guardian must state in writing that the school entity or school employee is not responsible for the medication or its administration. Further, the student must demonstrate self-administration competency to the school nurse and acknowledge in writing that the student will take appropriate safeguards and not allow other students to have access to the medication or monitoring equipment. The school entity may restrict a student from possessing or self-administering diabetes medication or monitoring equipment and may revoke a student's possession and self-administration privileges.

Within 120 days of the effective date, the chief school administrator may identify at least one school employee in each school attended by a student with diabetes to complete an annual training on diabetes care. After training, the school employee may be designated in the student's service agreement to administer diabetes medication, use monitoring equipment and provide other diabetes care.

This document is a summary of proposed legislation and is prepared only as general information for use by Members and staff of the Senate of Pennsylvania. The document does not represent the legislative intent of the Senate of Pennsylvania and may not be utilized as such.

This training may be offered by a licensed health care provider with expertise in diabetes care or through the Department of Health. The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Education, the American Diabetes Association, educators and health professionals, shall make training modules and guidelines available on its website for the instruction of school employees in diabetes care and treatment.

The training modules must include an overview of the types of diabetes; means of monitoring blood glucose; the symptoms and treatment for blood glucose levels; potential emergencies; and techniques on administering glucagon and insulin.

A student's service agreement may require a school entity to provide the driver of a school bus or school vehicle who provides transportation to a student with diabetes with an information sheet that identifies a student with diabetes, the potential emergencies that may result, appropriate emergency responses and contact information in case of emergencies.

Nonpublic schools may comply with diabetes training and care as established in this legislation. A service agreement, when required by law, or written plan outlining a student's required aids and services, may be used.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

C. AMENDMENT A02290 to SB 871:

Amendment A02290 clarifies several sections of the legislation by allowing an identified employee to opt-out as the person required to be trained and only permitting a school employee to administer glucagon in an emergency. The amendment further states that a professional nurse or practical nurse is not in violation of any licensing statutes or regulations by having school employees trained in diabetes care of students.