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Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith and Representative Rita Harris File Legislation to Enhance Anaphylaxis Safety in Public Schools

TALLAHASSEE, FL - State Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith (D- Orlando) and State Representative Rita Harris (D - Orlando) have filed Senate Bill 1514 and House Bill 1197, which would require an expansion of anaphylaxis policies and training in public schools.

[SB 1514](#)/[HB 1197](#) is intended to ensure proper protocols for handling anaphylactic reactions and mandates that each school district implement and enforce emergency action plans and provide critical training for school personnel. Under this bill, School Boards would be required to ensure that emergency action plans for students with allergies are effective at all times while on campus, including during extracurricular activities, athletic events, school dances, and before- and after-school programs.

“It is vital that we ensure our schools understand the risk of anaphylaxis and have a plan should a child be exposed to a triggering allergen. This training is quick, easy, free, and could mean the difference between life and death for some of our students. There is no reason they should be at heightened risk of anaphylaxis while at school or at before and after care” **said Senator Smith.**

While there are many agitators that may lead to anaphylaxis, certain foods are the most common trigger for anaphylactic events among all K-12 students, according to the [National Library of Medicine](#). A portion of this legislation is dedicated to combating this by educating students and parents about food allergies and strategies to avoid exposure to unsafe foods. Thus, this bill also requires that all school personnel—including employees and contracted staff at before- and after-school programs—receive comprehensive training on how to recognize and respond to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. The training will include instruction on the administration of emergency epinephrine, utilizing autoinjectors and nasal sprays, which are crucial for saving lives in the event of a severe allergic reaction.

"Anaphylaxis can be life-threatening, and it is essential that our schools are prepared to handle these emergencies effectively," added **Representative Harris**. "This legislation ensures that all students, especially those with allergies, can attend before and after school care, sports, and extracurricular activities knowing that school personnel are well-equipped to act in case of an emergency. The health and safety of our children should always come first, and this bill moves toward that direction."

If passed, the new requirements would take effect on July 1st, 2025. Florida's legislative session is set to begin on March 4th, 2025.

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