

By Senator Silver

38-1080-00

See HB 703

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school health care; creating  
3           s. 381.0058, F.S.; providing for funding to  
4           improve school nurse-to-student ratios;  
5           requiring local match for state funds;  
6           providing duties of the Secretary of Health and  
7           Commissioner of Education; providing for  
8           program proposals; specifying criteria for  
9           receipt of funding; establishing a pilot  
10          project in Hillsborough County to provide  
11          comprehensive health and wellness services to  
12          public school students and staff members;  
13          providing legislative findings and declaration;  
14          providing project goals; providing student  
15          achievement objectives; providing staff  
16          productivity objectives; providing anticipated  
17          outcomes; providing for funding; providing  
18          staffing criteria; providing an effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22           Section 1. Section 381.0058, Florida Statutes, is  
23 created to read:

24           381.0058 Funding to improve school nurse-to-student  
25 ratios.--

26           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide  
27 matching funds, in addition to those provided under s.  
28 381.0056 for the School Health Services Act and s. 381.0057  
29 for school health funding, to counties for the purpose of  
30 increasing nurse-to-student ratios and to provide staffing for  
31 school health services. The purpose of this funding is to

1 encourage further development of programs that offer the  
2 greatest potential for promoting the health of students and  
3 increasing the availability of and access to nurses in the  
4 delivery of school nurse services. State funds shall require a  
5 local match of at least 25 percent, cash or in-kind,  
6 specifically for implementation of programs that provide a  
7 nurse for no more than five schools staffed with a health  
8 support aide. Schools are to be within reasonable proximity to  
9 each other, so as to maximize nurse availability to each  
10 school's aides or volunteers should an emergency occur while  
11 the nurse is at another school. Local projects that utilize  
12 volunteer services specifically for provision of school health  
13 services may consider the value of these services as match.

14 (2) The Secretary of Health, or a designee, in  
15 cooperation with the Commissioner of Education, or a designee,  
16 shall publicize the availability of funds, targeting counties  
17 that have entered into formal agreements with public and  
18 private entities committed to enhancing the availability of  
19 school nurse services, as reflected in the school health plan.

20 (3) The Secretary of Health, or a designee, in  
21 cooperation with the Commissioner of Education, or a designee,  
22 shall form a joint committee with equal representation to  
23 evaluate and select the sites to receive funding.

24 (4) Any county that desires to receive state funding  
25 under this section shall submit a proposal to the joint  
26 committee established in subsection (3). The proposal shall  
27 state the goals of the program, provide specific plans for  
28 enhancing local resources available for school health nurse  
29 services, and describe all of the health services to be  
30 available to students with funds provided pursuant to this  
31 section. Funding allocated to a county under this provision

1 shall not be used to supplant the existing contributions to  
2 school health services funding.

3 (5) Selection shall be based on the merits of each  
4 proposal, and, in addition, priority shall be given to those  
5 county health departments and school districts that most  
6 closely meet the following criteria:

7 (a) Have evidence of an inservice staff development  
8 plan to ensure staff and volunteer capability to provide  
9 school health services.

10 (b) Have evidence of a cooperative working  
11 relationship between the county health department and the  
12 school district and the community, as well as parental  
13 support.

14 (c) Provide high numbers or higher than state average  
15 numbers of subsidized school lunches.

16 (d) Have high numbers or higher than state average  
17 numbers of medically underserved high-risk children,  
18 low-birthweight babies, infant mortality, or teenage  
19 pregnancy.

20 (e) Have high numbers or higher than state average  
21 numbers of children with chronic health conditions or  
22 high-risk behavioral problems.

23 (f) Have documented in the local school health  
24 services plan a commitment from counties to fund or provide  
25 other resources for the enhanced availability of school health  
26 services.

27 (g) Have a plan to ensure billing for Medicaid funding  
28 for services rendered under the certified school match program  
29 or the county health department certified match program as  
30 specified in s. 409.9122.

31

1           (h) Have evidence of a plan for promoting parent  
2 involvement in school health services.

3           (i) Have written commitments from public and private  
4 entities for local contributions to the school health services  
5 program.

6           (j) Have levels of academic achievement that place the  
7 schools at peril for failing status under the A+ plan.

8           Section 2. Hillsborough County public schools pilot  
9 project; integrated health services program.--There is  
10 established in Hillsborough County, to be phased into public  
11 schools over portions of the county, a pilot project to  
12 provide comprehensive health and wellness services to school  
13 students and staff members.

14           (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATION.--

15           (a) The Legislature finds that a full-time health  
16 component at school sites provides the following benefits to  
17 the student population:

18           1. Medical procedures that must be performed during  
19 the school day are safely and professionally performed by  
20 trained medical personnel; many school sites dispense over 50  
21 different medications a day to hundreds of students.

22           2. Children are better evaluated when ill or injured,  
23 and children with chronic illnesses, such as asthma and  
24 diabetes, are better managed during the school day.

25           3. Steps can be taken to obtain parent permission to  
26 provide certain medications to treat minor complaints, and  
27 this would significantly decrease the numbers of children  
28 going home for minor illnesses, resulting in better services  
29 at school, less interruption of the educational process, and  
30 less disruption of the parents' workday.

31

1           (b) The Legislature further finds that having the  
2 health care professionals who are assigned to meet student  
3 needs also provide limited medical services to employees at  
4 school sites, to the extent allowed by Florida Workers'  
5 Compensation laws, can be cost effective and increase employee  
6 productivity, for the following reasons:

7           1. Nurses are trained to deal with crisis intervention  
8 and prevention; and training staff members about blood-borne  
9 pathogens, dealing with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV),  
10 and reinforcing good practices to minimize these health  
11 concerns is an ongoing process.

12           2. Sorting through events to determine exposure risks  
13 in a timely manner can significantly reduce parent and  
14 community concerns and fears and school district liability.

15           3. Onsite treatment of an employee's minor injuries or  
16 illness, and onsite evaluation of injuries or illnesses to  
17 determine if further professional medical attention is needed,  
18 can be cost effective and reduce liability; and onsite  
19 followup after an injury or illness reduces loss of employee  
20 work time.

21           (c) The Legislature declares that providing  
22 comprehensive health and wellness services to both the adult  
23 and student populations at a school site will provide  
24 significant benefits to both groups.

25           (2) GOALS.--The goals of the pilot project shall be as  
26 follows:

27           (a) Improve the academic performance of students and  
28 schools in Hillsborough County.

29           (b) Improve the health of both students and employees,  
30 thus reducing absenteeism and disruption of educational  
31

1 activities and supporting Florida's Coordinated School Health  
2 Program.  
3 (c) Improve the delivery of health care services to  
4 the public school children of Hillsborough County, thus  
5 benefiting the students and their families.  
6 (3) OBJECTIVES.--  
7 (a) Operation of the pilot project shall achieve the  
8 following health care objectives intended to improve student  
9 academic performance:  
10 1. Improved referral completions following mandated  
11 health screenings.  
12 2. Earlier identification of physical and mental  
13 health problems.  
14 3. Improved handling of chronic health problems,  
15 including legally mandated monitoring of medications and  
16 health care procedures.  
17 4. Improved and earlier compliance with immunization  
18 and other public health requirements, the enforcement of which  
19 by school districts is required by statute.  
20 5. A healthier, safer school environment.  
21 6. Reduction in staff absences, resulting in increased  
22 consistency in instructional programs.  
23 (b) Operation of the pilot project shall achieve the  
24 following health care objectives intended to increase staff  
25 productivity:  
26 1. Immediate and comprehensive assessment of  
27 work-related injuries and illnesses.  
28 2. Ability to monitor the health of persons returning  
29 to work following injury or illness.  
30 3. A healthier, safer school environment.  
31

1           4. Onsite assistance with followup or monitoring of  
2 chronic health conditions, resulting in reduced absences.

3           (4) OUTCOMES.--The following measurable outcomes of  
4 the pilot project are anticipated:

5           (a) Improved attendance by students, resulting in  
6 improved "student daily attendance" and academic performance.

7           (b) Improved attendance by staff, resulting in more  
8 consistency in the instructional program.

9           (c) Reduced need and expense for substitute personnel.

10           (d) Fewer students and employees leaving school during  
11 the school day due to illness or injury.

12           (e) Earlier and more successful return of employees  
13 from work-related injuries.

14           (f) Improved compliance by students with  
15 physician-ordered medication and procedures, due to the  
16 school's responsibility for such compliance.

17           (g) Positive responses by students, staff members, and  
18 parents to the program.

19           (h) Improvement of school performance results as  
20 measured by the A+ Plan.

21           (5) FUNDING.--The pilot project is authorized to seek  
22 funding from categorical, grant, and full-service moneys of  
23 the Department of Health; through individual programs,  
24 including early childhood, Title I, alternative education, and  
25 exceptional education programs; through community partners,  
26 such as hospitals and hospital foundations; and through  
27 Medicaid, the Florida KidCare Program, and the indigent health  
28 care plan, and shall receive \$2.5 million in seed moneys from  
29 state funding sources. Indirect financial gains or cost  
30 savings shall be attained through lowered health insurance

31

1 premiums and workers' compensation costs and through reduced  
2 sick leave and better student attendance.

3 (6) STAFFING.--Staffing provided to schools to  
4 implement the pilot project shall be based on the following  
5 criteria:

6 (a) Student population.

7 1. For elementary schools, one health technician per  
8 site. In addition, one registered nurse shall be responsible  
9 for approximately 1,500 students or from one to three  
10 elementary schools.

11 2. For middle schools, one registered nurse per site  
12 up to 1,000 students; one registered nurse and one health  
13 assistant per site over 1,000 students.

14 3. For high schools, one registered nurse per site up  
15 to 1,500 students; one registered nurse and one health  
16 assistant per site over 1,500 students.

17 4. In addition, advanced registered nurse  
18 practitioners shall be assigned responsibility within  
19 specified geographic areas of the school district.

20  
21 The medical protocols shall be under the supervision of one  
22 full-time equivalent licensed physician; however, this  
23 position shall be shared by physicians from appropriate  
24 specialty areas such as pediatrics, family practice, and  
25 occupational health.

26 (b) Special needs of the student population, which may  
27 include the number of students in exceptional education  
28 programs, the number of students requiring technical medical  
29 procedures during the school day, and the number of students  
30 identified as at high medical or socio-economic risk.

31 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

\*\*\*\*\*

HOUSE SUMMARY

Establishes a program using local matching funds to fund proposals to improve school nurse-to-student ratios. Provides duties of the Secretary of Health and the Commissioner of Education in promoting the program and selecting funding sites. Specifies proposal requirements and site criteria.

Establishes a pilot project in Hillsborough County to provide comprehensive health and wellness services to public school students and staff. Provides legislative intent, goals, objectives, and anticipated outcomes of the pilot project. Authorizes the pilot project to seek funding from specified sources, and provides for \$2.5 million in seed money from the state. Provides criteria for school staffing to implement the pilot project.