

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>BILL #:</b> <a href="#">CS/HB 1201</a>	<b>COMPANION BILL:</b> <a href="#">CS/SB 186</a> (Garcia)
<b>TITLE:</b> Student Health and Safety	<b>LINKED BILLS:</b> None
<b>SPONSOR(S):</b> Mooney and Blanco	<b>RELATED BILLS:</b> None
<b>FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:</b> 112 Y's      0 N's	<b>GOVERNOR'S ACTION:</b> Pending

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill updates statutory provisions regarding the care of students with epilepsy or seizure disorders and expands the definition of schools to include charter schools. It requires schools to display a poster identifying the basic steps of responding to an individual having a seizure. The bill also requires the Department of Health to include in its epilepsy education program, the education and training required of schools.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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## ANALYSIS

### **EFFECT OF THE BILL:**

The bill updates several [existing statutory provisions](#) regarding the care of students with [epilepsy or seizure disorders](#). It clarifies the following:

- Charter schools are included in the public schools required to provide epilepsy and seizure disorder care and training.
- Written orders from a student's medical professional outlining his or her epilepsy or seizure disorder recommended care may be in a form determined by the medical professional.
- Any school district or charter school employee whose duties include regular contact with a student with an epilepsy or seizure disorder documented by an individualized seizure action plan (ISAP), including any employee who teaches or transports the student to and from school or school activities, is required to complete training in the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders.
- Epilepsy and seizure disorder training is valid for 5 years.

The bill requires schools to display a poster describing the basic steps of responding to an individual having a seizure. The DOE must identify one or more posters provided by a national nonprofit organization that supports the welfare of individuals with epilepsy and seizure disorders and are free of charge for schools. (Section [2](#)).

The bill also requires the Department of Health (DOH) to include certain education and training requirements required for schools in its [epilepsy education program](#). (Section [1](#)).

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2026. (Section [3](#)).

### **RULEMAKING:**

The bill modifies a provision of law already under the DOH's rulemaking authority, thus allowing the DOH to make rules to implement the bill.

**STORAGE NAME:** h1201z

**DATE:** 3/27/2026

*Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.*

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

#### [Children with Epilepsy or Seizure Disorder](#)

Epilepsy is a common disorder of the brain that causes recurring seizures.<sup>1</sup> Epilepsy affects people of all ages, but children and older adults are more likely to have epilepsy. Seizures are the main sign of epilepsy and most people can control the disorder with treatment.<sup>2</sup> In 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that 456,000 children in the United States and 26,200 children in Florida had active epilepsy.<sup>3</sup>

National and state epilepsy organizations provide support and advocacy for individuals and families affected by epilepsy, as well as support and resources on epilepsy and seizure first aid to the public.<sup>4</sup> These organizations provide training to school personnel and school nurses who work with children and youth, resources to schools, and epilepsy awareness school curriculum.<sup>5</sup> For parents of students with epilepsy, resources are made available such as a seizure action plan, individualized education plan (IEP), or a Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan).<sup>6</sup>

#### [Care of Students with Epilepsy or Seizure Disorders](#)

In 2022, the Legislature passed CS/HB 173 to provide for the care of Florida's public school students affected by epilepsy or a seizure disorder while at school. The bill established ISAPs, which inform school personnel of the unique health care services required for a student and how to respond in emergency situations.<sup>7</sup>

#### *Individualized Seizure Action Plan*

An ISAP is defined as a document that outlines a set of procedural guidelines and specific directions for the provision of health care and emergency services by a school for a student who has epilepsy or a seizure disorder.<sup>8</sup> A student's ISAP must be developed and signed by a medical professional, in consultation with the student's parent, and include the following information:<sup>9</sup>

- Written orders from the student's medical professional outlining the student's epilepsy or seizure disorder recommended care.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Managing Epilepsy in Schools*, [https://www.cdc.gov/school-health-conditions/chronic/epilepsy.html?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/epilepsy.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/school-health-conditions/chronic/epilepsy.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/epilepsy.htm) (last visited Mar. 5, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Epilepsy Facts and Stats*, [https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data-research/facts-stats/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data-research/facts-stats/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html) (last visited Mar. 5, 2026). The CDC epilepsy estimates are based on 2022 population numbers. For purposes of this estimate, a child aged 17 years or younger was considered as having active epilepsy if the parent or guardian reported that a health care provider ever told them their child had epilepsy or seizure disorder, and their child had epilepsy or seizure disorder at the time the data was collected. *See also* Florida Department of Health, *Epilepsy*, <https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease/epilepsy/> (last visited Mar. 5, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> Epilepsy Foundation, *About the Foundation*, <https://www.epilepsy.com/about-us/about-foundation> (last visited Mar. 5, 2026); Epilepsy Alliance America, *Programs and Services*, <https://www.epilepsyallianceamerica.org/programs-services/> (last visited Mar. 5, 2026); Epilepsy Alliance Florida, *Digital Resources*, <https://epilepsyalliancefl.org/digital-library/> (last visited Mar. 5, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> Epilepsy Foundation, *Schools and Seizure Preparedness*, <https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/schools-and-seizure-preparedness> (last visited Mar. 5, 2026); Epilepsy Alliance America, *On-Demand Seizure First Aid Training for School Personnel*, <https://www.epilepsyallianceamerica.org/on-demand-seizure-first-aid-training-for-school-personnel/> (last visited Mar. 5, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> United States Department of Education, *Epilepsy Fact Sheet* (2024), available at <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/ocr-factsheet-epilepsy-2024-33826.pdf>. Epilepsy Foundation, *Model Section 504 Plan for a Student with Epilepsy* (2015), available at [https://www.epilepsynorcal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Sample\\_504.pdf](https://www.epilepsynorcal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Sample_504.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Section 1006.0626, F.S.; Section 1, ch. 2022-19, L.O.F.

<sup>8</sup> Section 1006.0626(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1006.0626(2)(b), F.S.

- The parent's signature.
- The student's epilepsy or seizure disorder symptoms.
- Any accommodations the student requires for school trips, after-school programs and activities, class parties, and any other school-related activities.
- When and whom to call for medical assistance.
- The student's ability to manage and level of understanding of his or her epilepsy or seizure disorder.
- How to maintain communication with the student, the student's parent, the student's health care team, school nurse, and educational staff.
- Any rescue medication prescribed by the student's medical professional and how and when to administer the medication.

The following medical professionals are authorized to develop and sign an ISAP:<sup>10</sup>

- a physician licensed under chapter 458 to practice medicine or chapter 459 to practice osteopathic medicine;
- a physician assistant licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 to perform medical services delegated by a supervising physician; or
- an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under s. 464.012, F.S.

#### *Parental Obligations*

To initiate implementation of an ISAP, the parent of a student with epilepsy or a seizure disorder must submit an ISAP to the school principal and school nurse or other appropriate school employee. A parent should submit an ISAP before or at the beginning of the school year, upon enrollment, or as soon as practicable following a diagnosis. The provisions of an ISAP submitted by the parent must remain in effect until the parent submits a revised ISAP, signed by a medical professional, which identifies any changes to the student's condition.<sup>11</sup>

#### *Obligations of a School*

Schools must provide epilepsy or seizure disorder care to a student based upon the student's ISAP, IEP, or 504 Plan, as applicable. Implementation of an ISAP does not absolve or limit the school of its obligation to provide a student special instruction, services, or accommodations as required under federal and state law.<sup>12</sup>

Additionally, a school must provide each school employee, whose duties include regular contact with a student with an ISAP, the following:<sup>13</sup>

- Notice of the student's condition.
- Information from the ISAP on how to provide the recommended care for the student if the student presents symptoms.
- Contact information for the student's parent and emergency contacts.

Schools are authorized to implement training and student supports for the care of students with epilepsy or seizure disorder regardless of whether a parent submits an ISAP.<sup>14</sup>

#### *Obligations of School Personnel*

A school nurse or an appropriate school employee who receives an ISAP is required to:<sup>15</sup>

- Coordinate the provision of epilepsy and seizure disorder care at the school for the student, including administering anti-seizure and rescue medications as prescribed in law and outlined in the student's ISAP.

<sup>10</sup> Section [1006.0626\(1\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>11</sup> Section [1006.0626\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> Section [1006.0626\(4\), F.S.](#)

<sup>14</sup> Section [1006.0626\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>15</sup> Section [1006.0626\(3\), F.S.](#)

- Verify that each school employee whose duties include regular contact with the student has completed training in the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders. The training must include how to recognize the symptoms of and provide care for epilepsy and seizure disorders.

#### *Obligations of the Department of Education*

The DOE is required to identify on its website one or more online training courses to assist schools in meeting the training requirements on epilepsy and seizure disorders. The courses must be provided by a nonprofit national organization that supports the welfare of individuals with epilepsy and seizure disorders and must be available at no cost to schools.<sup>16</sup>

#### [DOH Epilepsy Education Program](#)

DOH is required to institute and maintain an educational program among physicians, hospitals, county health departments, and the public concerning epilepsy, including the dissemination of information and the conducting of educational programs concerning the prevention of epilepsy and methods developed and used for the care and treatment of persons with epilepsy.<sup>17</sup>

#### **RECENT LEGISLATION:**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>BILL #/SUBJECT</b>	<b>HOUSE/SENATE SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>OTHER INFORMATION</b>
2022	<u><a href="#">CS/HB 173</a></u> - Care of Students with Epilepsy or Seizure Disorders	Duran, Gottlieb/ <i>Garcia</i>	Became law on March 25, 2022.

<sup>16</sup> Section [1006.0626\(3\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>17</sup> Section [385.207\(2\)\(e\), F.S.](#)