HOUSE BILL 1193

AN ACT relative to the wellness and primary prevention council and relative to certification of school nurses.

SPONSORS: Rep. B. French, Merr. 6; Rep. Fothergill, Coos 1; Rep. Wallner, Merr. 10; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Carson, Dist 14

COMMITTEE: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill clarifies the information and administrative support which is to be provided by the department of health and human services to the wellness and primary prevention council. This bill also requires school nurses to be certified and establishes the certification criteria.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics.**
Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough.]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.
AN ACT relative to the wellness and primary prevention council and relative to certification of school nurses.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Wellness and Primary Prevention Council; Duties Amend RSA 126-M:3, III(c) to read as follows:

   (c) After consultation with the council, the department of health and human services shall, to the extent of available funds, seek provide a coordinator of wellness and primary prevention programs, to assist the council in the performance of its duties. The department of health and human services shall provide information and administrative support to the council as [is reasonable and requested by the council] the department may deem reasonable.

2 School Health Services; School Nurses. Amend RSA 200:29 to read as follows:

   200:29 School Nurse; Certification.

   I. Each school board may appoint a school nurse to function in the school health program, and provide said nurse with proper facilities and equipment. A school nurse shall be a registered professional nurse currently licensed in New Hampshire and certified by the state board of education.

   II.(a) An individual shall have the following entry level requirements to be certified as a school nurse:

      (1) Have completed a board of nursing approved registered nursing program at the bachelor’s degree level or higher under RSA 326-B; and

      (2) Have 3 years current experience in pediatric nursing or other related nursing areas.

   (b) An applicant for certification as a school nurse shall have the skills, competencies, and knowledge in the following areas:

      (1) In the area of delivery of the school nursing services, the skills and abilities to:

         (A) Assess student’s health or situation through analysis of data collected and synthesize comprehensive data.

         (B) Identify outcomes and develop plans for individual students or situations including strategies and alternatives.

         (C) Implement interventions identified in the plan of care/action,
coordinating care with school employees and evaluate outcome.

(D) Consult with administration to provide health education and employ strategies to promote health, wellness and a safe environment.

(E) Systematically evaluate the progress for the quality of practice and effectiveness toward attainment of outcomes for promoting health and a safe environment.

(2) In the area of school nursing, the applicant shall demonstrate the knowledge and ability to:

(A) Provide quality nursing practice in a school setting.

(B) Evaluate his or her nursing practices and continue professional development as required by a school district's professional development master plan.

(C) Collaborate with students, families, school staff, and others in the conduct of school nursing practices.

(D) Integrate ethical provisions and research findings into practice as a school nurse.

(3) In the area of accountability, knowledge, skills, and application in:

(A) Planning and delivering school nursing services factoring in safety, effectiveness, cost, and impact on nursing practice.

(B) Providing leadership in the profession and professional nursing practice setting.

(C) Managing school health services.

(D) Complying with professional nursing practice standards, guidelines, relevant statues, rules and regulations.

III. The state board of education shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

(a) The application process for certification under paragraph II.

(b) Form and content of any forms required under paragraph II.

(c) Application fees for certification under paragraph II.

(d) Further rulemaking necessary for the proper administration of certification under paragraph II.

3 Application. School nurses employed on or before July 1, 2016 shall not be subject to the certification requirements of RSA 200:29, II.