

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1075

H. P. 909

House of Representatives, March 2, 1981

Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Mr. Pearson of Old Town referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative G. Diamond of Windham.

Cosponsor: Senator Clark of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Authorize a School Nursing Health Coordinator in the Department of Educational and Cultural Services.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

20 MRSA § 1135-A is enacted to read:

§ 1135-A. School Nurse Coordinator

1. **Coordinator within department.** There shall be a health professional, acting as a School Nurse Coordinator, within the Department of Educational and Cultural Services. This person must be licensed as a registered nurse in the State and must have education and experience in school health or community nursing and, if possible, a master's degree in nursing.

2. **Duties.** The coordinator shall have the following duties:

A. To provide orientation for new local school nursing personnel, and to assist them in writing comprehensive job descriptions and implementing local health policies;

B. To assist local school nursing personnel in advocating and planning comprehensive, sequential health education programs for students;

- C. To assist the department in establishing certification standards for school nursing personnel;**
- D. To clarify legal issues, define liability and interpret new legislation to school nursing personnel;**
- E. To assist school nursing personnel in becoming knowledgeable members of pupil evaluation teams in effecting placement and programs for students with special needs;**
- F. To instruct school nursing personnel in the organization of health services with minimal disruption to the educational process;**
- G. To coordinate appropriate educational programs and workshops for school nursing personnel and to work with institutions of higher education to make relevant courses and degree programs available to nurses in all areas of the State;**
- H. To interpret the role of school nursing personnel to local administrators and educators;**
- I. To assist in establishing communication between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Educational and Cultural Services and to seek input from local school nursing personnel in formulating guidelines for services to students;**
- J. To attend courses, workshops and conferences relevant to school nursing and to disseminate current health information to local school nursing personnel on a regular basis;**
- K. To assure communication and coordination among school nurses, physicians and other resource agencies providing health services;**
- L. To serve as an official representative and spokesman for the School Nurse Division of the Maine Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, voicing the group's stand on legislation, health topics and educational issues which affect the health of the state's children; and**
- M. To serve as a resource person to other agencies and organizations, including the State Principals' Association, the Maine Lung Association, the School Health Board of Directors, the Maine State Nurses' Association and the Maine Teachers' Association.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to authorize a School Nurse Coordinator in the Department of Educational and Cultural Services. This health professional would render assistance to local school nursing personnel, assist in developing health education programs, clarify legal issues, assist in the establishment of school

nurse certification requirements, dispense current health information, develop communication among health personnel, state agencies, municipal officials and other organizations and to serve as an advocate for school nurses and health programs.