

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 197

H.P. 158

House of Representatives, February 5, 2013

An Act To Permit Nurse Practitioners To Perform the Functions of School Physicians

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator BURNS of Washington and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, FARNSWORTH of Portland, GIDEON of
Freeport, KNIGHT of Livermore Falls, MASON of Topsham, SAUCIER of Presque Isle,
SCHNECK of Bangor, Senator: PLUMMER of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6402-A**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 258, §2, is amended to
3 read:

4 **§6402-A. School physician or family or pediatric nurse practitioner**

5 Each school board shall appoint one or more school physicians or family or pediatric
6 nurse practitioners.

7 **1. Duties.** The school physician or family or pediatric nurse practitioner shall advise
8 the administrative unit on school health issues, policies and practices and may also
9 perform any other health-related functions assigned by the board.

10 **2. Other functions.** A school physician or family or pediatric nurse practitioner
11 may perform other medical and health-related duties assigned by the school board, which
12 may include all or some of the following:

13 A. Examine and diagnose students referred by teachers and other school employees
14 to protect against the outbreak of contagious diseases in the schools;

15 B. Examine students for participation in physical education and athletic activities;

16 C. Advise and serve as medical consultant to the school nurse; or

17 D. Examine school employees and property if the physician or family or pediatric
18 nurse practitioner believes it is necessary to protect the health of students.

19 **3. Prohibition.** A school physician or family or pediatric nurse practitioner may not
20 treat any student examined under this subchapter unless the physician or family or
21 pediatric nurse practitioner is also the student's personal ~~physician~~ health care provider.

22 **4. Appointment.** Appointment ~~shall be~~ is on a yearly basis.

23 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §451, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 462, §1, is amended to
24 read:

25 **6. Duties.** Local health officers may be employed on a part-time or full-time basis.
26 The offices of local health officer and town or school physician or family or pediatric
27 nurse practitioner may be combined when, in the opinion of the municipal officers, the
28 health needs of the public would be better served.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill allows a family or pediatric nurse practitioner to serve as a health care
31 provider in a school.