

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 331

Short Title: Healthy Students - Nurses in Every School. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Nickel, Crawford, and Mohammed (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 23, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL NURSE IN EVERY SCHOOL IN A  
2 LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT BEGINNING IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL  
3 YEAR AND TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO MEET THAT  
4 REQUIREMENT.  
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6 Whereas, the health, well-being, and educational success of public school students in  
7 North Carolina are top priorities of the General Assembly; and

8 Whereas, employing school nurses has been shown to have a critical and positive  
9 impact on the health, well-being, and educational success of public school students in  
10 kindergarten through grade 12 due to services directed toward keeping students healthy, in class,  
11 and ready to learn; and

12 Whereas, there has previously been insufficient funding to provide for a full-time,  
13 permanent nurse in every school in a local school administrative unit in North Carolina; and

14 Whereas, the impacts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have disrupted and  
15 will continue to disrupt school schedules and families' lives; and

16 Whereas, there is now an even greater need to ensure that all local school  
17 administrative units can provide a full-time, permanent nurse for every school in the unit; and

18 Whereas, it is the goal of the General Assembly to respond to the critical impacts of  
19 COVID-19 on our schools, our students, and their families and communities, with appropriate  
20 investments and programs; Now, therefore,

21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

23 "(65) To Provide at Least One School Nurse in Every School. – Local boards of  
24 education shall ensure that each school within the local school administrative  
25 unit is staffed by at least one full-time, permanent school nurse."

26 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
27 Public Instruction the sum of one hundred two million dollars (\$102,000,000) in recurring funds  
28 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to increase the Instructional Support Allotment. These funds shall  
29 be used to increase positions for school nurses in order to provide at least one full-time,  
30 permanent school nurse for every school in the unit.

31 **SECTION 2.(b)** Funds provided to local school administrative units pursuant to this  
32 act shall supplement and not supplant any funds already provided for school nurses.

33 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021. Section 1 of this act applies  
34 beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

