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SENATE BILL NO. 1322

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 14, 2009

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-274.3:1, relating to guidelines for managing and caring for students with food allergies in the public schools.

Patron—Whipple

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-274.3:1 as follows:

§ 22.1-274.3:1. Guidelines for managing and caring for children with food allergies in the public schools.

A. The Board of Education, in cooperation with the Board of Health, shall develop, and revise as necessary, guidelines for managing and caring for children with food allergies in the public schools. Such guidelines shall be completed by December 1, 2009, and copies shall be distributed to each division superintendent in the Commonwealth. The guidelines shall, among other things, establish a protocol regarding the care of students with life-threatening food allergies, and provide requirements for accommodating students with special dietary needs, parental responsibility and involvement, and training school personnel concerning food allergies and the management of students with food allergies. These guidelines shall also incorporate Board of Education policies pertaining to the management of food allergies in public schools and the standards established by the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service for accommodating children with special dietary needs in the school nutrition programs.

B. Each school board shall, by July 1, 2010, adopt guidelines consistent with the Board of Education guidelines for managing and caring for children with food allergies in the public schools.

C. Every school board shall ensure that all school personnel having direct contact with students receive appropriate training in the causes and prevention of food allergies, the identification of symptoms indicating exposure to allergens, and the proper management of students who have been exposed to specific allergens.

INTRODUCED

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