

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1997 SESSION

CHAPTER 597

An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-274 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school health services.

[H 1987]

Approved March 20, 1997

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-274 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-274. School health services.

A. A school board shall provide pupil personnel and support services, in compliance with § 22.1-253.13:2. A school board may employ school nurses, physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists. No such personnel shall be employed unless they meet such standards as may be determined by the Board of Education. Subject to the approval of the appropriate local governing body, a local health department may provide personnel for health services for the school division.

B. In implementing subsection C of § 22.1-253.13:2, relating to providing support services which are necessary for the efficient and cost-effective operation and maintenance of its public schools, each school board may strive to employ, or contract with local health departments for, nursing services consistent with a ratio of at least one nurse (i) per 2,500 students by July 1, 1996; (ii) per 2,000 students by July 1, 1997; (iii) per 1,500 students by July 1, 1998; and (iv) per 1,000 students by July 1, 1999. In those school divisions in which there are more than 1,000 students in average daily membership in school buildings, this section shall not be construed to encourage the employment of more than one nurse per school building. Further, this section shall not be construed to mandate the aspired-to ratios.

C. The Board of Education shall monitor the progress in achieving the ratios set forth in subsection B of this section and any subsequent increase in prevailing statewide costs, and the mechanism for funding health services, pursuant to subsection E of § 22.1-253.13:2 and the appropriation act. The Board shall also determine how school health funds are used and school health services are delivered in each locality and shall provide, by December 1, 1994, a detailed analysis of school health expenditures to the House Committee on Education, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the Senate Committee on Finance.

D. *Effective July 1, 1998, no licensed instructional employee shall be disciplined, placed on probation or dismissed because of the instructional employee's refusal to perform nonemergency health-related services for students.*

For the purposes of this subsection, "health-related services" means those activities which, when performed in a health care facility, must be delivered by or under the supervision of a licensed or certified professional.