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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

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**Bill No:** SB 138 **Hearing Date:** March 27, 2019  
**Author:** Roth  
**Version:** January 17, 2019  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Chanel Matney

**Subject:** Pupil health: type 1 diabetes information: parent notification.

### SUMMARY

This bill requires school districts and charter schools to identify the best methods of informing students and parents about type 1 diabetes and implement those methods by January 1, 2021.

### BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires schools to develop a community child health and disability prevention program that provides early and periodic assessments of the health of pupils. Existing law requires health screenings to include tests for vision, hearing, anemia, tuberculosis, diabetes, and urinary tract conditions. (Education Code § 49450 et seq.)
- 2) Existing law requires the Department of Education to develop a type 2 diabetes information sheet and requires schools to provide the information sheet to the parents or guardians of incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders. (EC § 49452.7)
- 3) Requires schools to instruct pupils on the topics of diabetes, nutrition, obesity, and diseases. Existing law specifies that schools may voluntarily provide pupils with instruction on preventative health care, including diabetes prevention through nutrition education. (EC § 51890)

### ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires school district governing boards and charter school governing bodies to, in collaboration with their K-12 schools, identify the best way to educate the parents and guardians of pupils about type 1 diabetes.
- 2) Requires the optimal type 1 diabetes information campaign to be implemented by school districts and charter schools governing bodies by January 1, 2021.
- 3) Specifies that the information provided to parents may include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- a) A description of type 1 diabetes.
- b) A description of the risk factors and warning signs of type 1 diabetes.
- c) A recommendation that pupils who display warning signs of type 1 diabetes are screened for the disease.
- d) A description of the screening process for type 1 diabetes.
- e) That an endocrinologist is the preferred specialist for ongoing treatment.

## STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, "Section 49452.7 of the Education Code requires school districts to provide information regarding type 2 Diabetes (T2D) to the parent or guardian of specified incoming students. While less common, T1D, also known as juvenile diabetes, is an autoimmune disease, which attacks the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas thereby resulting in life-threatening health problems and, if left untreated, can even result in death. It is critical that parents learn the symptoms of both T2D and T1D to prevent misdiagnosis. As with T2D, early diagnosis, and treatment greatly increase the quality of life for these children."
- 2) ***What is type 1 diabetes?*** Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease where the body does not produce enough insulin, which is a hormone that breaks down sugar in the bloodstream.
- 3) ***How prevalent is type 1 diabetes in California?*** Nationally, Type 1 diabetes accounts for about 5 percent of all cases of diabetes. According to the California Department of Public Health in 2014, about 38,000 Californians were living with type 1 diabetes.
- 4) ***Is it preventable or curable? How is it treated?*** There is no known way to prevent this disease, and neither is there a cure. Effective treatment management requires continuous blood sugar monitoring and lifelong insulin therapy in consultation with an appropriate medical care provider. Since each case of type 1 diabetes is unique, an endocrinologist may not be the preferred specialist for treatment in all patients. **Staff recommends an amendment that the factsheet may encourage the parents to consult with their primary medical care provider regarding if a specialist's care is needed.**
- 5) ***How do you screen for type 1 diabetes?*** Type 1 diabetes can develop at any age. Affected individuals are usually diagnosed in childhood or early adolescence. The onset of type 1 diabetes can be detected by blood tests and urine tests. These include tests to detect antibodies that are associated with this disorder, and tests to measure the levels of sugar in the bloodstream.
- 6) ***Who should develop the fact sheet?*** To ensure that the content, quality, accuracy, and breadth of the factsheet is consistent across California schools, **staff recommends an amendment that the California Department of Education**

develops an online webpage that informs parents of Type 1 Diabetes. This is cost-effective, efficient, affords standardization, and prevents hundreds of district and charter schools from designing different documents for their individual schools.

- 7) ***How will the information be fact-checked?*** The California Department of Public Health, the American Diabetes Association, and other related groups maintain accurate and continuously updated outreach and information materials related to type 1 diabetes. **Staff recommends an amendment** to require the California Department of Education (CDE) to work in consultation with any entity the Department deems appropriate, including but not limited to those listed above.
- 8) ***Which grades receive the factsheet?***
- a) This bill requires schools to develop a factsheet for grades K-12. Type 1 diabetes is typically diagnosed in childhood, most commonly around age 14. However, medical tests can identify type 1 diabetes in children much earlier in life. **Staff recommends an amendment** that schools make the factsheet available to parents and guardians of pupils during the kindergarten year, or upon first enrollment or entry in an elementary school.
  - b) Existing law requires the CDE to provide schools with a type 2 diabetes information sheet for the parents or guardians of incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Should an information sheet on type 1 diabetes be made available to the parents and guardians at the same time? **Staff recommends an amendment that** schools make available a factsheet on both type 1 and type 2 diabetes for the parents and guardians of incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Prior legislation.** AB 2536 (Chau, Chapter 419, 2016) requires the CDE to display and periodically update their websites with information on discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyber sexual bullying and encourages schools to refer pupils to these resources.

AB 1639 (Maienschein, Chapter 792, 2016) requires the California Department of Education to educate coaches, pupils and their parents or legal guardians about warning signs of cardiac arrest by posting an information sheet on the State Department of Education website. This bill encourages school districts and schools to post these same informational materials to their websites as well.

AB 2226 (Garcia, Chapter 235, 2006) requires schools to provide a type 2 diabetes information sheet, to be developed by the State Department of Education, to the parent or guardian of incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

AB 766 (Longville, Chapter 745, 2003) established a voluntary three-year pilot program to screen pupils in grades 7-8 for the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and scoliosis. This legislation sunsetted on January 1, 2008.

AB 195 (Chan, Chapter 550, 2003) specifies that K-12 comprehensive health education programs may provide instruction in nutrition. This bill also specifies that school districts may provide pupils with obesity, diabetes, and nutrition education.

**SUPPORT**

California School Employees Association

**OPPOSITION**

None received

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