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Sixty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2235

Introduced by

Senators Bakke, Heitkamp, Hogan

Representatives Dobervich, Hager

A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the creation of a school nurse grant program; and to provide an appropriation.~~for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding school nurse programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

~~**SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:~~

~~**School nurse grant program.**~~

~~1. The state department of health shall administer a school nurse grant program to provide grants to eligible school districts to hire school nurses. The health council shall adopt rules to implement the program, including rules establishing an application process, eligibility criteria, and distribution of program grants.~~

~~2. An eligible school district may apply to the state department of health for a grant under the program to hire a full-time or part-time nurse. The department shall award ten part-time and ten full-time nurse grants to eligible school districts under the program each biennium. The department shall distribute to grant recipients one-half of the grant amount each year of the biennium. The department shall distribute to an eligible school district that applies for and is awarded a grant for:~~

~~a. A part-time nurse, seventy-five thousand dollars to pay for the cost of salary and benefits for the nurse during the biennium.~~

~~b. A full-time nurse, one hundred fifty thousand dollars to pay for the cost of salary and benefits for the nurse during the biennium.~~

~~3. A school nurse hired by a school district using program grant funds shall:~~

~~a. Provide basic nursing services to students enrolled in the district;~~

~~b. Monitor the dispensing of medication;~~

~~c. Assist with health screenings;~~

~~d. Provide health education as determined by the board of the school district; and~~

~~e. Provide additional duties as determined by the board of the school district.~~

~~**SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the community health trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $2,250,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state department of health for the purpose of providing school nurse grants to eligible school districts under the school nurse grant program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.~~

SECTION 1. SCHOOL NURSE PROGRAMS - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY. During the 2021-22 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying school nurse programs in the state. The study must include a review of the number of school districts in the state which employ nurses, whether the nurses are employed full-time or part-time, national trends regarding the hiring of nurses by school districts, and an evaluation of the benefits of employing nurses in school districts. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-eighth legislative assembly.