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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 979 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, BREWSTER, COSTA, HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE,  
KILLION, BROWNE AND STEFANO, DECEMBER 12, 2019

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, DECEMBER 12, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in school health services, providing  
6 for seizure recognition and related first aid training.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1414.11. Seizure Recognition and Related First Aid  
13 Training.--Beginning with the school year 2021-2022 and each  
14 year thereafter:

15 (1) A school nurse shall complete a Department of Health  
16 approved online or in-person course of instruction for school  
17 nurses regarding management of a student with seizures that  
18 includes information about seizure recognition, a seizure action  
19 plan and related first aid.

20 (2) A professional employe of a school entity, other than a

1 school nurse, whose duties at the school entity include regular  
2 contact with students shall complete a Department of Health  
3 online or in-person course of instruction regarding awareness of  
4 a student with seizures that includes information about seizure  
5 recognition and related first aid.

6 (3) The training required under this section shall be  
7 credited toward a professional educator's continuing  
8 professional education requirement under section 1205.2, any  
9 staff development requirements for paraprofessionals under 22  
10 Pa. Code § 14.105 (relating to personnel) and a school or system  
11 leader's continuing professional education requirement under  
12 section 1205.5.

13 (4) The Department of Health may identify, develop or  
14 approve an online or in-person course of instruction provided by  
15 a nonprofit national foundation that supports the welfare of  
16 individuals with epilepsy and seizure disorders to satisfy the  
17 training required under this section.

18 (5) The Department of Health, in consultation with the  
19 Department of Education, shall adopt guidelines to administer  
20 this section.

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.