
Education Committee

HB 1922

Brief Description: Establishing a grant program for the purchase and installation of vape detectors in public schools.

Sponsors: Representatives Couture, McClintock, Christian, Leavitt, Rude, Schmidt, Waters, Connors, Barnard, Callan, Rule, Cheney, Sandlin, Harris, Riccelli, Pollet, Davis and Griffey.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of Health, to establish and administer a grant program to provide funds to school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools for the purchase and installation of vape detectors in public schools.

Hearing Date: 1/23/24

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In addition to its constitutional charge of supervising all matters pertaining to public schools, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and its office has numerous and broad responsibilities prescribed in statute, including:

- making rules and regulations necessary for the administration of public education requirements;
- preparing courses of study and other materials and books for the discharge of education duties;

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- fulfilling financial responsibilities, including distributing legislatively allocated funds to districts for the operation of the public school system, and awarding numerous state and federally funded grants; and
- satisfying numerous reporting and other duties assigned by the Legislature.

Department of Health.

The Department of Health (DOH) administers various programs and services that promote public health through disease and injury prevention, immunization, newborn screening, professional and health care facility licensing, and public education. The DOH is also involved in the promotion of safe and healthy schools, including duties related to environmental health, immunization, and sexual health education.

Healthy Youth Survey.

Washington's Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) is a collaborative effort of the Health Care Authority, the DOH, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Liquor and Cannabis Board. The survey is administered biennially statewide to student in grades 6 through 12.

The HYS measures health risk behaviors that contribute to illness, death, and social problems among youth in Washington through questions about students' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors on a variety of health and safety topics, including school climate and community safety, anxiety and depression, substance use and abuse, and healthy eating habits and physical activity.

The HYS includes questions about the use of vape pens and electronic cigarettes, the battery powered devices that usually contain a liquid that is vaporized and inhaled by the user.

Summary of Bill:

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), subject to funding provisions and in consultation with the Department of Health, must establish and administer a grant program to provide funds to school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools for the purchase and installation of vape detectors in public schools.

Applications for grant funds must be made on forms developed by the OSPI, and awarded grant funds must be to school districts and qualifying schools demonstrating a need for the detectors based on data from the Healthy Youth Survey or other statewide or local data sources for student health practices or trends.

Grant applicants must identify resources or programs of the school district or school that may be combined with grant funds to increase student knowledge about the health hazards associated with using vapor products. Grant recipients must provide annual information to the OSPI assessing the effectiveness of the detectors and other health promotion measures of the school district or school in reducing the student use of vapor products on school properties.

School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools may reapply for grant funds in subsequent years or award cycles.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 19, 2024.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.