
HOUSE BILL 1878

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Stanford, Peterson, Pollet, Hudgins, and Riccelli

1 AN ACT Relating to allergen information in schools; and adding a
2 new chapter to Title 28A RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds:

5 (a) One in every thirteen children have potentially life-
6 threatening allergies;

7 (b) A person is sent to the emergency room due to food allergies
8 every three minutes in the United States;

9 (c) Studies show that from 1997 to 2007 allergies increased
10 eighteen percent among children under age eighteen;

11 (d) Food allergies are the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside
12 of the hospital setting;

13 (e) The economic cost of children's food allergies in the United
14 States is twenty-five billion dollars per year.

15 (2) The purpose of this chapter is to protect students with food
16 allergies and to inform students and parents about the ingredients
17 used in preparing meals at school.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** In time for school districts to comply
19 with section 3 of this act, the office of the superintendent of
20 public instruction shall consult with the state department of

1 agriculture to develop and disseminate guidance for school districts
2 on how and what allergen information must be displayed to comply with
3 section 3 of this act. Methods of display may include food labels,
4 signs, and other notices. The term "allergen" may include the eight
5 major food allergens described in the federal food allergen labeling
6 and consumer protection act of 2004.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Public schools must display allergen
8 information on a conspicuous sign in a prominent place within each
9 area where food is served, by September 1, 2018.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act
11 constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

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