



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0549 (Cross filed with HB0675)
TITLE: Education – Public Schools – Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh Act)
DATE: 3/3/2020
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports SB0549 with amendments.**

This bill would require training on the signs/symptoms of a seizure and how to administer medications for the following staff members:

- Staff with direct supervision of a student with a seizure disorder (i.e., teachers, administrators, paraeducators, school bus drivers). This training would include specific instruction on the student’s Individualized Health Care Plan.
- At least two staff members per school (c.f., previous bills requiring similar training on anaphylaxis, diabetes, and opioid overdoses).

This bill also could require an increase in school health services staffing to ensure school-based staff members are adequately trained. It also includes standardization of seizure treatment protocols across all school districts in Maryland.

Finally, SB0549 specifies that all students will be provided with an age-appropriate educational program on seizure disorders.

In Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), approximately 500 MCPS students have been diagnosed with a seizure disorder. At least 140 students have a seizure disorder that require daily medication or as needed medication administration at school.

MCPS’ current practices are in alignment with SB0549’s requirement that staff members who are responsible for the daily care of students with seizures learn about the students’ Individualized Health Care Plan and what to do in an emergency. Current practices include the development of an Individual Health Care Plan for any student with a medical need, including seizure disorders. Staff members who work with the affected students are trained on the student’s individual health care needs and how to identify signs and symptoms that might indicate a more serious concern.

Unlike with previous legislation on anaphylaxis, opioid overdoses, and diabetes, there is much variation in treatment protocols for students with a seizure disorder. Training two staff members in general seizure awareness and how to administer medication does not take into account that several students with a seizure disorder may attend a school and each student could have a different

treatment regimen and different medications. A staff member with no medical background would be significantly challenged if called upon to administer medication to an unfamiliar student.

To this end, MCPS respectfully requests the following amendments:

- that funding be included in SB0549 to address the cost of training thousands of staff members and other costs associated with this bill (i.e., for developing and implementing trainings, cost of training hourly employees).
- Reconsider language on training at least two staff members per school on seizure awareness and medication administration. There is the potential for there to be many factors (and combinations of factors) that would make it irresponsible for a non healthcare professional to be expected to administer seizure medication to an unfamiliar student. This sets the stage for medication to be inadvertently administered to the wrong student.
- With previous bills related to health awareness training, MCPS also requested that language be included so that staff members could not be required to be one of the two staff members trained on seizure disorders and how to administer medication. If this part of the bill remains, it is especially important that staff members not be required to administer medications. Some seizure medication, for example, must be administered per rectum as an enema. This is a much more intrusive task than volunteering to administer an epinephrine autoinjector in the event of an emergency.

For these reasons, the Board **supports** this legislation **with amendments** and urges a favorable report.