



Committee: House Ways and Means Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 136
Bill Title: Education – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Seizure Action Plans
(Brynleigh’s Act)
Hearing Date: January 20, 2022
Position: Support

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) and the Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) support *House Bill 136 – Education – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh’s Act)*. The bill provides for increased awareness of seizure symptoms among school personnel as well as delineates protocols for administering emergency seizure medication.

MASHN and MNA believe that keeping children healthy, safe, in school, and ready to learn should be a top priority for both healthcare and educational systems. Children with unmet health needs have a difficult time engaging in the educational process. Students who are medically fragile or who deal with chronic health issues are coming to school in increasing numbers and with increasingly complex medical problems that require a variety of treatments. The school nurse serves in a pivotal role that bridges health care and education and is an essential member of interdisciplinary teams to reduce health-related barriers to learning.

This legislation advances the health and educational opportunities for students with seizure disorders by:

- Increasing awareness of the symptoms of seizure disorders and the protocols for emergency response through training of school personnel. Children – whether in class, on the bus, or at an after-school activity – will be more protected by adults who recognize signs of seizures; and
- Expanding the number of individuals who can safely administer or help students

self-administer emergency seizure medication. The bill aligns with existing law that governs how school nurses delegate the administration of emergency medication to non-clinicians, such as teachers or administrative staff. The involvement of the school nurse is important as it ensures non-clinicians have the appropriate training, guidance, and support to provide medications safely. Under this bill, each school must have at least two staff members who can administer emergency seizure medications.

We thank the sponsor and the advocates for their commitment to ensuring all children can participate in the educational system. We ask for a favorable report on this bill. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Kristy Gorman of MASHN and kristygorman@gmail.com or Robyn Elliott of MNA at relliott@policypartners.net.