

SENATE, No. 1381

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Board of Education regulations regarding school nurse certification to include certain minimum eligibility requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S1381 BATEMAN

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1 **AN ACT** concerning school nurse certification and supplementing
2 chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. State Board of Education regulations prescribing the
8 requirements for eligibility for an educational services certificate
9 with a school nurse endorsement shall, at a minimum, require that a
10 candidate for the endorsement:

11 a. is licensed as a registered nurse pursuant to the provisions of
12 P.L.1947, c.262 (C.45:11-23 et seq.);

13 b. holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited
14 college or university;

15 c. completes either a Department of Education-approved
16 college curriculum for the preparation of school nurses or a
17 program of studies, with a minimum of 30 semester hour credits,
18 that includes study in subject areas determined by the State board
19 and clinical experience in a school nurse office; and

20 d. completes a college-supervised school nurse practicum
21 experience, a portion of which shall be completed in a school nurse
22 office and a portion of which shall be completed in a classroom.
23 The practicum experience may count toward the minimum 30
24 semester hour credit requirement.

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26 2. State Board of Education regulations prescribing the
27 requirements for eligibility for an educational services certificate
28 with a school nurse/non-instructional endorsement shall, at a
29 minimum, require that a candidate for the endorsement:

30 a. is licensed as a registered nurse pursuant to the provisions of
31 P.L.1947, c.262 (C.45:11-23 et seq.);

32 b. holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited
33 college or university; and

34 c. completes either a Department of Education-approved
35 college curriculum for the preparation of school nurses or a
36 program of studies, with a minimum of 21 semester hour credits,
37 that includes study in subject areas determined by the State board
38 and clinical experience in a school nurse office.

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40 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the authority
41 of the State Board of Education to prescribe additional eligibility
42 requirements for a school nurse endorsement or a school nurse/non-
43 instructional endorsement.

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45 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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State Board of Education regulations at N.J.A.C.6A:9B-14.3 and 14.4 govern school nurse certification. In July of 2013, the State board adopted amendments to the certification requirements, which reduced credit requirements for a school nurse endorsement from 30 to 21 semester hour credits, and reduced credit requirements for a non-instructional school nurse endorsement from 21 to 15 semester hour credits. The amendments also eliminated the requirement that a candidate for a school nurse endorsement complete a minimum of 6 credits in a college-supervised school nurse practicum, half of which is completed in a school nurse office and the balance of which is completed in a classroom.

This bill codifies the previous State board certification requirements that a candidate for a school nurse endorsement must complete a minimum of 30 semester hour credits that includes study in subject areas determined by the State board and clinical experience in a school nurse office, in addition to holding a license as a registered nurse and a bachelor's degree. The bill also codifies the previous certification requirement that a candidate for a school nurse endorsement must complete a college-supervised school nurse practicum experience in a school nurse office and a classroom. With regard to non-instructional school nurses, the bill codifies the previous State board certification requirements that a candidate for a non-instructional school nurse endorsement must complete a minimum of 21 credits that includes study in subject areas determined by the State board and clinical experience in a school nurse office, in addition to holding a license as a registered nurse and a bachelor's degree.

The bill provides minimum requirements for school nurse certification and does not limit the authority of the State board to prescribe additional eligibility requirements for a school nurse endorsement or a school nurse/non-instructional endorsement.