

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 185

BY REPRESENTATIVE THIBAUT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request each nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to consider storing auto-injectable epinephrine in the school office for use in cases of emergency and to adopt policies and procedures for such use.

WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:436.1(K), requires the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school to adopt a policy authorizing a school nurse or trained school employee to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to a student who the school nurse or trained school employee, in good faith, professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not such student has a prescription for epinephrine; and

WHEREAS, the law defines auto-injectable epinephrine as a medical device for the immediate self-administration of epinephrine by a person at risk for anaphylaxis; and

WHEREAS, the law further requires that at least one employee at each public school receive training from a registered nurse or a licensed medical physician in the administration of auto-injectable epinephrine and authorizes the school nurse or trained employee to administer the auto-injectable epinephrine to respond to a student's anaphylactic reaction under a standing protocol from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state; and

WHEREAS, the law permits each public elementary and secondary school to maintain a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine at the school in a locked, secure, and easily accessible location and further provides that a licensed physician may prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of the school system or the individual school to be maintained for use when deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, according to the results of a national survey of over five thousand schools, close to one thousand anaphylactic episodes occurred in those schools in 2014; and

WHEREAS, in twenty-two percent of those cases, anaphylaxis occurred in students and teachers with no known allergies; and

WHEREAS, access to epinephrine is important because it is the only first-line treatment for anaphylaxis; and

WHEREAS, according to the food allergy guidelines developed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, if experiencing anaphylaxis, a person should use an epinephrine auto-injector and seek immediate emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, because state law provides for the use of auto-injectable epinephrine in public schools in cases of emergency, it seems reasonable that the same should apply in nonpublic schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each nonpublic school that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to consider storing auto-injectable epinephrine in the school office for use in cases of emergency and to adopt a policy to provide for the storage, use, and administration of such device.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the state superintendent of education who shall be responsible for disseminating copies of this Resolution to each state-approved nonpublic school.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES