



March 25, 2022

**SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (016425):** Requires a local education agency (LEA) to classify school nurses as licensed personnel and to compensate school nurses according to the salary schedule adopted by the LEA for licensed personnel for the respective school year. Establishes certain salary requirements for nurses based on licensure status, training, and experience. Prohibits a salary schedule from resulting in the reduction of the salary of a school nurse employed by the LEA at the time of the adoption of the salary schedule. Exempts compensation paid to contractors of the LEA from the requirements of this section. Applies to the 2022-23 school year and subsequent years.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – LEAs may be required to increase expenditures in order to compensate school nurses at the same level as licensed personnel. However, due to multiple unknown variables, a precise local fiscal impact cannot be reasonably determined.\***

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Current law does not establish salary requirements for school nurses; therefore, LEAs have discretion on how to compensate school nurses.
- Because the Basic Education Program (BEP) formula funds nurse salaries at the licensed personnel rate, the state contribution will remain unchanged.
- The Department of Education does not collect data on nurse salaries and it is unknown how many LEAs are not currently compensating school nurses at the same level as licensed personnel.
- For LEAs that are not compensating nurses at the proposed level, those LEAs will be required to increase salary and employee benefit contributions to match the salary levels for licensed personnel.
- Due to multiple unknown variables, the extent of any such increases in local expenditures for nurse salaries cannot be reasonably determined. Therefore, a local fiscal impact cannot be precisely estimated.
- No impact to state government or the BEP.

\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'C'.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/ah