

Leg. Flashback



Feedback for Contact Coordinators



Date: 1 June 2010
TO: CTA Board of Directors, Chapter Presidents, Contact Coordinators, and All CTA Users
FROM: Lori Easterling, Manager, Legislative Relations
SUBJECT: Panel Holds Bad Insertions Measure –SB 1051 (Huff) — in Suspense

Governmental
Relations
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The Senate Appropriations Committee voted to “hold” SB 1051 due to costs associated with the implementation of the CTA-opposed measure that would result in non-licensed school personnel administering rectal injections of Diastat to students suffering seizures. CTA-opposed SB 1051 by Sen. Bob Huff (R-Glendora) would put both the lives and privacy of the students and the legal fate of school personnel at risk. The latest version of SB 1051 requires notification and assistance to parents requesting that volunteer school employees be trained to administer Diastat. The bill also has costs associated with the training of school employee volunteers.

Additionally, school employees could be found legally liable in the event of errors, especially because the California Board of Registered Nursing considers this function to be one “requiring a substantial amount of scientific knowledge and technical skills,” but the bill does not specify a uniform training module or funding for training. ***The deadline for all bills to pass their house of origin and continue to be deliberated is June 8, 2010.***

Legislative
Relations
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Feedback – Ten members of the committee cast a “procedural” vote to move the bill to the suspense file to review its fiscal implications. The alternative was to pass the bill out of committee to the floor. Sen. Huff and Romero worked to get the bill passed out of the committee to the floor, and Sen. Hollingsworth also spoke in favor of moving the bill to the floor.

Sen. President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg opposed moving the bill out of the committee’s suspense file and to the floor. He said that the measure would raise quality of care and safety issues. He also said that the Legislature has to own up to its own responsibility due to the budget cuts that have left schools with this choice. He also said that Sen. Romero should know that the Suspense process is a long tradition and that the committee rendered the appropriate decision. During the debate, Sen. Kehoe also supported the Pro Tem.

CTA members should thank the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee for their commitment to protect students from inappropriate medical treatment.

Please e-mail feldman@cta.org after you’ve made contact with legislators on these bills. For more information, contact CTA Legislative Advocate Toni Trigueiro or GR Communications Consultant Len Feldman at 916.325.1500.

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