

Date of Hearing: June 19, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Patrick O'Donnell, Chair

SB 138 (Roth) – As Amended April 3, 2019

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: Pupil health: type 1 diabetes information: parent notification

SUMMARY: Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop type 1 diabetes (T1D) informational materials, and requires school districts and charter schools to make the informational materials accessible to the parents and guardians of pupils by January 1, 2021. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the CDE, in consultation with the governing boards of school districts and the governing bodies of charter schools that maintain any of kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and any other entity the CDE deems appropriate, to develop T1D informational materials for the parents and guardians of pupils.
- 2) Requires the governing board of a school district and the governing body of a charter school to make the T1D informational materials accessible to parents or guardians of pupils while the pupil is enrolled in kindergarten or when the pupil is first enrolled in elementary school, and while the pupil is enrolled in grade 7, on and after January 1, 2021.
- 3) Specifies that information provided to parents and guardians may include, but not be limited to:
 - a) A description of T1D;
 - b) A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with T1D;
 - c) A recommendation that pupils displaying warning signs associated with T1D should be immediately screened for T1D;
 - d) A description of the screening process for T1D; and
 - e) A recommendation that, after a diagnosis, parents and guardians should consult with a medical care provider to determine if a specialist's care is needed.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires schools to develop a community child health and disability prevention program that provides early and periodic assessments of the health of pupils. Existing law requires health screenings to include tests for vision, hearing, anemia, tuberculosis, diabetes, and urinary tract conditions. (Education Code (EC) Section 49450 et seq.)
- 2) Requires the CDE to develop a type 2 diabetes (T2D) information sheet and requires schools to provide the information sheet to the parents or guardians of incoming 7th graders. (EC Section 49452.7)

- 3) Requires schools to instruct pupils on the topics of diabetes, nutrition, obesity, and diseases. Existing law specifies that schools may voluntarily provide pupils with instruction on preventative health care, including diabetes prevention through nutrition education. (EC Section 51890)

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) The CDE estimates one-time General Fund costs of about \$127,000 to develop the informational materials and to convene a two-day stakeholders meeting. However, based on the costs for previous activities that are similar, the actual amount is likely to be lower.
- 2) The bill's requirement for school districts and charter schools to make the informational materials accessible to parents and students would likely result in a reimbursable state mandate. However, the costs are anticipated to be minor and would not meet the minimum claiming threshold.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. According to the author, "Section 49452.7 of the Education Code requires school districts to provide information regarding T2D to the parent or guardian of specified incoming students. While less common, T1D, also known as juvenile diabetes, is an autoimmune disease, which attacks the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas thereby resulting in life-threatening health problems and, if left untreated, can even result in death. It is critical that parents learn the symptoms of both T2D and T1D to prevent misdiagnosis. As with T2D, early diagnosis, and treatment greatly increase the quality of life for these children."

Type 1 diabetes. T1D is an autoimmune disease where the body does not produce enough insulin, which is a hormone that breaks down sugar in the bloodstream. T1D can develop at any age. Affected individuals are usually diagnosed in childhood or early adolescence. The onset of T1D can be detected by blood tests and urine tests. These include tests to detect antibodies that are associated with this disorder, and tests to measure the levels of sugar in the bloodstream. There is no known way to prevent this disease, and neither is there a cure. Effective treatment management requires continuous blood sugar monitoring and lifelong insulin therapy in consultation with an appropriate medical care provider.

Nationally, T1D accounts for about five percent of all cases of diabetes. According to the California Department of Public Health, in 2014 about 38,000 Californians were living with T1D.

Which grades would receive the informational materials? This bill requires the CDE, in consultation with the governing boards of school districts and the governing bodies of charter schools to develop T1D informational materials for pupils in kindergarten, or when the pupil is first enrolled in elementary school, as well as in grade 7. However, medical tests can identify T1D in children much earlier in life. The availability of the informational materials in the earlier grades may help to facilitate early detection of the disease.

In addition, existing law requires the CDE to provide schools with a T2D informational materials for the parents or guardians of incoming 7th graders. Providing the informational materials for T1D concurrently with T2D in grade 7 will likely reinforce educational themes around health, nutrition, metabolism and hereditary illnesses.

Arguments in support. Supporters from the California School Employees Association state, “SB 138 helps with the early diagnosis of T1D by reaching out to school districts about the best way of informing parents and students about this disease. Parents will be able to identify the symptoms and seek medical help for their children in treating and managing this disease, making it easier for classified and other important school employees to make sure students remain healthy and safe at school.”

Arguments in opposition. None on file.

Related legislation. AB 2226 (Garcia), Chapter 235, Statutes of 2006, requires, on or after July 1, 2010, school districts to provide an information sheet regarding T2D, as specified, to the parent or guardian of incoming 7th grade pupils, and requires the California Department of Education to develop that information sheet.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California School Employees Association
Ease T1d Type 1 Diabetes Awareness

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Marguerite Ries / ED. / (916) 319-2087