

Date of Hearing: July 7, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair  
SB 97 (Roth) – As Amended March 2, 2021

**SENATE VOTE:** 39-0

**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, county offices of education and charter schools to make the informational materials accessible to the parents and guardians of pupils by January 1, 2023. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the CDE, in consultation with the governing boards of school districts, county boards of education, and 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, on and after January 1, 2023, the governing board of a school district, county board of education, and governing body of a charter school to make the T1D informational materials accessible to the parent or guardian of a pupil 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.
- 3) Authorizes information provided to parents and guardians to include, but not be limited to, all of the following:
  - a) A description of T1D;
  - b) A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with T1D;
  - c) A recommendation regarding those pupils displaying warning signs associated with T1D that the parents or guardians of those pupils should immediately consult with the pupil's primary care provider to determine if immediate screening for T1D is appropriate;
  - d) A description of the screening process for T1D and the implications of test results; and
  - e) A recommendation that, following a T1D diagnosis, parents or guardians should consult with the pupil's primary care provider to develop an appropriate treatment plan, which may include consultation with and examination by a specialty care provider, including, but not limited to, a properly qualified endocrinologist.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) 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)

- 2) 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) CDE estimates one-time General Fund costs of about \$83,000 and one half-time position to develop the T1D informational materials.
- 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, "Currently, schools are required to provide information regarding Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) to the parent or guardian of specified incoming students. However, there is no similar requirement to provide information on Type 1 Diabetes (T1D), though symptoms often present in juveniles. T1D is an autoimmune disease that attacks the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, destroying the body's ability to make insulin. If left untreated, T1D can dramatically impact everyday life, and can even result in death. As the number of Americans diagnosed with T1D continues to increase, it is critical that parents learn the symptoms of both T2D and T1D in order to prevent misdiagnosis. SB 97 seeks parity with the California Department of Education's T2D information requirements and provides yet another tool to help parents and guardians make informed decisions on behalf of their child's health. By enhancing parent and guardian knowledge on potential T1D warning signs and next steps for medical consultation, schools can help support early diagnosis and treatment and greatly increase the quality of life for impacted students."

***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.

***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.

**Recommended Committee Amendments.** *Staff recommends that the bill be amended as follows:*

- 1) To conform to existing law regarding the T2D notification, require the CDE to develop the information sheet in coordination with any other entity the department deems appropriate, and specify that the information sheet shall be made available to each school district, county office of education, and charter school through CDE's website.
- 2) Require the notification to a parent or guardian when the pupil is first enrolled in elementary school, or through the annual notification to parents.

**Arguments in support.** The American Diabetes Association states, "The onset of type 1 diabetes can happen quickly and without warning. Symptoms can mimic those of the flu. Because of that, the diagnosis of type 1 diabetes can be delayed, leading to health complications including Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA). DKA is a serious condition that results from untreated or undiagnosed diabetes or from too little insulin and can lead to diabetic coma or even death. Arming parents/guardians with information that can help them identify warning signs or symptoms of type 1 diabetes is critical to getting children diagnosed and treated before life-threatening complications occur."

**Related legislation.** SB 138 (Roth) of the 2019 Session, would have required the California Department of Education (CDE), in consultation with stakeholders including the governing bodies of school districts and charter schools, to develop informational materials about type 1 diabetes. The bill would have required, by January 1, 2021, school districts and charter schools to provide the informational materials to parents and guardians when their student enrolls in an elementary school and again when their student enrolls in grade seven. This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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 CDE to develop that information sheet.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

American Diabetes Association  
California Dialysis Council  
California School Boards Association  
Ease T1d Type 1 Diabetes Awareness  
Office of The Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

**Opposition**

None on file

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