

SB 1085 -- SELF-ADMINISTERED MEDICATIONS

SPONSOR: Kennedy (Cooper, 155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, any local school board may allow a student to self-administer medication for asthma. This bill specifies that school boards, their employees, or agents must authorize students to possess and self-administer prescribed medication for asthma or anaphylaxis if the parent or guardian follows the procedures specified in the bill.

Students are allowed to carry and use the self-administered medication during school-sponsored activities beyond the regular school day and outside the school. A student will also be allowed to bring backup medication and have it stored where the student, or an appropriate school agent if necessary and in accordance with the physician's written treatment plan, has immediate access in the event of a medical emergency.

The bill clarifies that school districts are not prohibited from providing authorized backup medication or from implementing a policy to provide training for employees to administer the medication.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that having an epi-pen available, rather than locked up in the nurse's office, can provide the necessary time until a severely allergic student can be treated by paramedics. Since both Kansas City and St. Louis usually rank in the top 10 allergy cities, the state schools need the bill to relieve their liability while providing a safe environment for allergic students.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Koster for Senator Kennedy; Peggy Harris; and Dr. Mark Vandewalker.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst