

HB 1188 -- SCHOOL NURSE ADMINISTRATION OF ASTHMA RESCUE
MEDICATION

SPONSOR: Allen

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill establishes procedures under which a school nurse may administer asthma-related rescue medications. A school board may authorize a licensed nurse employee to maintain a supply of medication and to determine how much medication should be maintained. For prescription purposes, the district must be designated as the patient and the nurse's name will be required. The nurse or another employee trained and supervised by the nurse has the discretion to administer the medication to any student whom the nurse or employee believes is having a life-threatening asthma episode. Existing law providing immunity from civil liability for trained employees administering lifesaving methods applies to the employee administering asthma medication under these provisions.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help in a life threatening episode in a school in the case of an asthma-related emergency by allowing a nurse or other trained employee to provide an asthma rescue treatment via an inhaler or a nebulizer. If schools had asthma rescue medicine, such as Albuterol on site, a nurse caring for a student having an asthma attack could treat the student and save that child from a trip to a hospital. Having an asthma rescue drug is similar to having a defibrillator or an epinephrin pen at the school. The bill provides assurance and a safety net for children with asthma and adds a layer of protection for saving a life and preventing severe health outcomes for untreated asthma attacks. One in 15 children in St. Louis has asthma, which is three times the national average. The number one reason children are admitted to emergency rooms and hospitals is an asthma-related incident.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Allen; Joy Krieger, Asthma and Allergy Foundation, St. Louis Chapter; Alishia LaPorte; Dr. William Kincaid; American Lung Association Gulf-Plains Region; Lisa Meadows; and Barbara Heger.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.