

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1862 Session of  
1999

INTRODUCED BY L. I. COHEN, ADOLPH, COLAFELLA, CURRY, DAILEY,  
DERMODY, FARGO, FICHTER, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GRUCELA,  
HENNESSEY, LEDERER, McNAUGHTON, READSHAW, RUBLEY, SATHER,  
SCHRODER, SHANER, B. SMITH, STABACK, STERN, STEVENSON,  
E. Z. TAYLOR, TRELLO, WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD,  
MELIO, RAMOS, STEELMAN AND SAYLOR, SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," directing school districts to  
6 establish policies regarding student possession and self-  
7 administration of certain asthma medications.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1401 of the act of March 10, 1949  
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added  
12 July 15, 1957 (P.L.937, No.404), is amended by adding a  
13 definition to read:

14 Section 1401. Definitions.--As used in this article--

15 \* \* \*

16 (12) "Asthma inhaler" means a physician-prescribed device  
17 used for self-administration of physician-prescribed medication  
18 to treat asthma.

Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 1414.1. Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers.--

Every school district and area vocational-technical school shall develop a written policy to allow for the possession and self-administration by a school student of an asthma inhaler and the prescribed medication to be administered thereby in a school setting. Such policy shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) The requirement of a written statement from the physician that provides the name of the drug, the dose, the times when the medication is to be taken, and the diagnosis or reason the medicine is needed, unless the reason should remain confidential. The physician shall indicate the potential of any serious reaction that may occur to the medication, as well as any necessary emergency response. The physician shall state whether the child is qualified and able to self-administer the medication.

(2) The requirement of a written request from the parent or guardian that the school district comply with the physician's order. The parent's note shall include a statement relieving the school of any responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the medication when it is parent-authorized and physician-prescribed and acknowledging that the school bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medication is taken.

(3) The ability of the school to reserve the right to require a physician statement for the continued use of any medication beyond a specified time period. The school shall also restrict the availability of the asthma inhaler and the prescribed medication contained therein from other students, with immediate confiscation of both the asthma inhaler and the

1 medication and loss of privileges if the school policies are  
2 abused or ignored.

3 (4) A requirement that a student demonstrate the capability  
4 for self-administration and for responsible behavior. The school  
5 shall develop a system whereby the student may verify to any  
6 inquiring school personnel that the student has school  
7 permission for carrying and taking the medication through use of  
8 the asthma inhaler.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.