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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 624**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-274 and 22.1-274.01:1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code*
5 *of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-274.01:2, relating to school boards; student diabetes care*
6 *and management in schools; divisionwide plan required.*

7 Patron—Cherry

8 Committee Referral Pending

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**10 **1. That §§ 22.1-274 and 22.1-274.01:1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the**
11 **Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-274.01:2 as follows:**12 **§ 22.1-274. School health services.**13 A school board shall provide pupil personnel and support services in compliance with § 22.1-253.13:2.
14 A school board may employ school nurses, physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and
15 speech therapists. No such personnel shall be employed unless they meet such standards as may be
16 determined by the Board. Subject to the approval of the appropriate local governing body, a local health
17 department may provide personnel for health services for the school division.18 B. In implementing subsection P of § 22.1-253.13:2, relating to providing support services that are
19 necessary for the efficient and cost-effective operation and maintenance of its public schools, each school
20 board may strive to employ, or contract with local health departments for, nursing services consistent with a
21 ratio of at least one nurse per 1,000 students. In those school divisions in which there are more than 1,000
22 students in average daily membership in school buildings, this section shall not be construed to encourage the
23 employment of more than one nurse per school building. Further, this section shall not be construed to
24 mandate the aspired-to ratios.25 C. The Board shall monitor the progress in achieving the ratio set forth in subsection B and any
26 subsequent increase in prevailing statewide costs, and the mechanism for funding health services, pursuant to
27 subsection P of § 22.1-253.13:2 and the appropriation act. The Board shall also determine how school health
28 funds are used and school health services are delivered in each locality.29 D. With the exception of school administrative personnel and persons employed by school boards who
30 have the specific duty to deliver health-related services, no licensed instructional employee, instructional
31 aide, or clerical employee shall be disciplined, placed on probation, or dismissed on the basis of such
32 employee's refusal to (i) perform nonemergency health-related services for students or (ii) obtain training in
33 the administration of insulin and glucagon. However, instructional aides and clerical employees may not
34 refuse to dispense oral medications.35 For the purposes of this subsection, "health-related services" means those activities that, when performed
36 in a health care facility, must be delivered by or under the supervision of a licensed or certified professional.37 E. Each school board shall ensure that in school buildings with an instructional and administrative staff of
38 10 or more (i) at least three employees have current certification or training in emergency first aid,
39 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator and (ii) if one or more
40 students diagnosed as having diabetes attend such school, at least two employees have been trained in the
41 administration of insulin and glucagon. In school buildings with an instructional and administrative staff of
42 fewer than 10, school boards shall ensure that (a) at least two employees have current certification or training
43 in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator and
44 (b) if one or more students diagnosed as having diabetes attend such school, at least one employee has been
45 trained in the administration of insulin and glucagon. For purposes of this subsection, "employee" includes
46 any person employed by a local health department or a local government who is assigned to the public school
47 pursuant to an agreement between the local health department or the local government and the school board.
48 When a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician, or physician assistant is present, no
49 employee who is not a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician, or physician assistant
50 shall assist with the administration of insulin or administer glucagon. Prescriber authorization and parental
51 consent shall be obtained for any employee who is not a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse,
52 physician, or physician assistant to assist with the administration of insulin and administer glucagon.53 **§ 22.1-274.01:1. Students who are diagnosed with diabetes; self-care; insertion and reinsertion of**
54 **insulin pump.**55 A. Each local school board shall permit each enrolled student who is diagnosed with diabetes, with
56 parental consent and written approval from the prescriber, as that term is defined in § 54.1-3401, to (i) carry

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59 with him and use supplies, including a reasonable and appropriate short-term supply of carbohydrates, an
60 insulin pump, and equipment for immediate treatment of high and low blood glucose levels;~~and~~; (ii)
61 self-check his own blood glucose levels on a school bus, on school property, and at a school-sponsored
62 activity; and (iii) carry with him and use a cell phone or smart device, pursuant to subdivision B 4 of
63 § 22.1-79.3:1, to monitor, address, or contact his parent, the school, or his health care provider to
64 communicate about any matter relating to diabetes care and management needs or decisions, including to
65 self-check his own glucose levels in accordance with clause (ii).

66 B. A local school board employee who is a registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse, or certified nurse
67 aide and who has been trained in the administration of insulin, including the use and insertion of insulin
68 pumps, and the administration of glucagon may assist a student who is diagnosed with diabetes and who
69 carries an insulin pump with the insertion or reinsertion of the pump or any of its parts. For the purposes of
70 this subsection, "employee" has the same meaning as in subsection E of § 22.1-274. Prescriber authorization
71 and parental consent shall be obtained for any such employee to assist with the insertion or reinsertion of the
72 pump or any of its parts. Nothing in this section shall require any employee to assist with the insertion or
73 reinsertion of the pump or any of its parts.

74 **§ 22.1-274.01:2. School boards; divisionwide plan for the care of students who are diagnosed with
75 diabetes required.**

76 A. As used in this section, "school board employee" has the same meaning as in subsection E of
77 § 22.1-274.

78 B. Each school board shall develop, amend as necessary, and implement a divisionwide plan for the care,
79 at school during regular school hours, of each public elementary or secondary school student who is
80 diagnosed with diabetes in the school division for the purpose of ensuring the maintenance of a safe and
81 healthy learning environment and maximizing the opportunity for academic success for each student. Each
82 such divisionwide plan shall:

83 1. Give consideration to and incorporate, where appropriate, the guidelines contained in the
84 Department's Diabetes Management in Schools: Manual for Unlicensed Personnel (the Manual);

85 2. Ensure that any training, education, and professional development opportunities for licensed or
86 unlicensed staff relating to such care are properly tailored to the unique needs that are present in each
87 school in the school division and the skills of the staff in each such school;

88 3. Include procedures, consistent with subsection E of § 22.1-274, for ensuring that in each school
89 building in the school division that is attended by one or more students diagnosed with diabetes and that has
90 an instructional and administrative staff of (i) 10 or more, at least two employees have been trained in the
91 administration of insulin and glucagon and (ii) fewer than 10, at least one employee has been trained in the
92 administration of insulin and glucagon;

93 4. Ensure that the provision or assistance with the provision of diabetes-related care by licensed or
94 unlicensed school board employees is consistent with the guidance contained in the most recent revision of
95 the Manual and is in accordance with applicable law, including:

96 a. Assistance with the administration of insulin or glucagon by a school board employee who is not a
97 licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician, or physician
98 assistant but who has been trained in the administration of insulin or glucagon in accordance with the
99 provisions of subsection E of § 22.1-274; and

100 b. Assistance with the insertion and reinsertion of the insulin pump or any part thereof by a school board
101 employee who is a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse and who has been trained in the
102 administration of insulin, including the use and insertion of insulin pumps, and the administration of
103 glucagon in accordance with the provisions of subsection B of § 22.1-274.01:1.

104 5. Make available opportunities for parental involvement in the process of providing care for such
105 students at school, including establishing processes and procedures for the submission and consideration of
106 Diabetes Medical Management Plans, the development of Individualized Health Care Plans in collaboration
107 with the school nurse or another qualified staff member, and the consideration of complaints and resolution
108 of disputes relating to such documents or any other aspect of the provision of care for such students at
109 school;

110 6. Provide interested parents with opportunities to provide input on the development or amendment of the
111 divisionwide plan;

112 7. Include procedures to implement the divisionwide plan in each public elementary and secondary school
113 in the local school division; and

114 8. Address such other matters as the school board deems necessary and appropriate.

115 C. The Department shall, alone or in consultation with such individuals or entities as it deems
116 appropriate, provide technical assistance to school boards upon request in the development, amendment, or
117 implementation of the divisionwide plans required pursuant to subsection B.

118 2. That the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health, the School
119 Committee of the Virginia Diabetes Council, the American Diabetes Association, school board
120 members, and such other stakeholders as it deems appropriate, shall conduct a comprehensive review

121 of the *Diabetes Management in Schools: Manual for Unlicensed Personnel* and shall, no later than
122 January 1, 2027, revise such document as deemed necessary to (i) ensure that such document is up to
123 date and properly guides and informs the development of divisionwide plans required pursuant to
124 § 22.1-274.01:2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act; (ii) define, or update the definitions of,
125 terms relating to diabetes care to ensure consistency and currency, including the terms (a) "diabetes
126 device" or any equivalent term that refers to any medically necessary device used in the treatment or
127 monitoring of diabetes, including glucose monitors and meters, wearable diabetes devices, and any part
128 or component thereof; (b) "connected diabetes technology" or any equivalent term that refers to any
129 digital or electronic device used in conjunction with a diabetes device for the purpose of regulating the
130 timing and amount of insulin delivery, collecting or transmitting glucose data, or assisting with the
131 performance or monitoring of other diabetes-related care or decision-making; and (c) "designated
132 unlicensed employee" to mean any school board employee who is not a licensed practical nurse,
133 registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician, or physician assistant but who,
134 consistent with applicable law, has been trained in the administration of insulin and glucagon and has
135 been authorized by a prescriber and has parental consent to assist with the administration of insulin or
136 administer glucagon to a student diagnosed with diabetes; (iii) include information on the immunity of
137 a school board employee, provided pursuant to subdivision A 11 of § 8.01-225 of the Code of Virginia,
138 from liability for civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions resulting from such
139 employee's assistance with the administration of insulin, the insertion or reinsertion of an insulin pump
140 or any part thereof, or the administration of glucagon to a student diagnosed with diabetes, provided
141 that such employee has been trained in the administration of insulin and glucagon and rendered such
142 treatment pursuant to prescriber authorization, with parental consent, and consistent with applicable
143 law and regulation; (iv) include guidance consistent with the provisions of §§ 22.1-274 and 22.1-274.2 of
144 the Code of Virginia and § 22.1-274.01:1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, relating to the
145 training of and provision of or assistance with the provision of diabetes-related care by school board
146 employees, including guidance on the training of, provision or assistance with the provision of care by,
147 and designation of a designated unlicensed employee, as that term is defined in clause (ii) (c); and (v)
148 include guidance for (a) ensuring that each school in the school division attended by one or more
149 students diagnosed with diabetes meets the minimum staffing requirements for employees trained in
150 the administration of insulin and glucagon set forth in subsection E of § 22.1-274 of the Code of
151 Virginia, as amended by this act; (b) in the event that any such school is unable to meet such minimum
152 staffing requirements because no trained employee is available, making a good faith, ongoing effort to
153 identify and provide for the training of a volunteer to assist with the provision of such care; (c)
154 encouraging or incentivizing trained employees to provide diabetes-related care, in accordance with
155 applicable law and regulation, when no school nurse or employee who is a licensed practical nurse,
156 registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician, or physician assistant is present; and
157 (d) determining when no school board employee who is a licensed practical nurse, registered nurse,
158 advanced practice registered nurse, physician, or physician assistant is present and, therefore, when a
159 trained employee is permitted to assist with the administration of insulin or administer glucagon
160 pursuant to subsection E of § 22.1-274 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act.

161 3. That the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health, the School
162 Committee of the Virginia Diabetes Council, the American Diabetes Association, school board
163 members, and such other stakeholders as it deems appropriate, shall review the *Diabetes Management*
164 *in Schools: Manual for Unlicensed Personnel* at least biennially, revise it as necessary to ensure the
165 information therein is current and accurate, and post it in a publicly accessible location on its website.

166 4. That each school board shall develop and implement its divisionwide plan as required pursuant to
167 § 22.1-274.01:2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, to become effective beginning with the
168 2027–2028 school year.

169 5. That the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health, shall develop,
170 periodically review and update as necessary, make available to each school board, and post in a
171 publicly accessible location on its website informational materials for parents on type 1 and type 2
172 diabetes.

173 6. That each school board shall make the informational materials developed pursuant to the fifth
174 enactment of this act available to the parent of each student enrolled in the school division at the
175 beginning of each school year.