

Amendment No. 1 to HB0808

White  
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1242

House Bill No. 808\*

by deleting all language after the caption and substituting instead the following:

WHEREAS, school nurses are professionals, licensed by the board of nursing, who are employed to provide valuable health services to Tennessee's children in public schools; and

WHEREAS, the professional educational level of school nurses varies among licensed practical nurses who may have one year of postsecondary training, registered nurses who may have two or more years of postsecondary training, nurses with a bachelor's degree who may have four years of postsecondary training, and advanced practice nurses who have further training beyond the other levels; and

WHEREAS, school nurses are funded through the classroom component of the Basic Education Program (BEP), of which the state share is seventy-five percent and the local share is twenty-five percent; and

WHEREAS, the BEP does not take into consideration a school nurse's education or certification level. Instead, the BEP only generates funding for one full-time school nurse position for every three thousand students or one full-time school nurse position for each LEA, whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, some LEAs designate certain LEA employees as "certified," which may include teachers, administrative staff, counselors, psychologists, speech therapists, and physical therapists, and other LEA employees as "classified," which may include school nurses, cafeteria and food services staff, and bus drivers; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

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(a) The office of research and education accountability (OREA) in the office of the comptroller of the treasury shall conduct a study to determine the practice and frequency of local education agencies categorizing school nurses as "classified" or "certified" employees. The OREA shall include in the study the various types of employee categorization occurring in local education agencies and the types of employees included in each category. The OREA shall study the costs to LEAs and the state to categorize school nurses as "certified LEA employees," or to categorize school nurses in the same manner as LEAs classify licensed teachers, and to categorize school nurses in accordance with the school nurse's level of education and experience.

(b) The OREA shall report its findings to the education committee of the house of representatives and the education committee of the senate no later than January 31, 2020.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.