



SB549 EDUCATION – PUBLIC SCHOOLS – SEIZURE ACTION PLANS (BRYNLEIGH ACT)

March 3, 2020

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **SB549 Education – Public Schools – Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh Act)** with amendments. This bill requires, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, local boards of education to take specified steps regarding the health care needs of students with seizure disorder, including requiring each public school to have, as specified, either 1) two school employees trained in seizure disorders or 2) a full-time registered nurse. Each public school must provide specified annual staff training. The parent or guardian of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder must collaborate with school personnel to create a seizure action plan and provide medication and authorization as specified. A public school must also provide a seizure education program to all students as specified. A nonpublic school may require trained staff and provide a seizure education program.

Because this seizure education course would have to be fully consistent with the guidelines published by the American Epilepsy Foundation, it will be difficult to find the time to train all staff – administration, teachers, therapists, counselors, classroom aids, bus drivers, all contracted employees, and any other personnel in contact with students as required under the bill. Accordingly, AACPS recommends that the bill be amended to strike this requirement and only require school nurses or health room staff to receive the training. School nurses and health room staff would be the best equipped to address a situation where a seizure is taking place. Also, it is important to note that seizures take on varying characteristics and requiring all staff to be trained could open school systems to potential liability.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB549 with the proposed amendments.