



HOUSE BILL 397: Use of Epinephrine Nasal Spray.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 2, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Lambeth, Cotham	Prepared by:	Hillary Woodard
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 397 would do the following:*

- *Expand the definition of epinephrine auto-injectors to epinephrine delivery systems in order to include nasal sprays in addition to auto-injectors for the treatment of asthma or anaphylactic reactions in schools.*
- *Apply the expanded definition of epinephrine delivery systems would be applicable to certain entities and organizations other than schools.*

CURRENT LAW: Epinephrine auto-injectors are a disposable drug delivery system with a spring-activated, concealed needle that is designed for emergency administration of epinephrine. G.S. 115C-375.2A. Local boards of education (G.S. 115C-375.2A) along with the board of directors of charter schools (G.S. 115C-218.75), regional schools (G.S. 115C-238.66), and the chancellor of laboratory schools (G.S. 116-239.8) are required to comply with certain requirements regarding maintaining and providing epinephrine auto-injectors, including, among other requirements:

- Adopting a policy authorizing certain students to possess and self-administer asthma medication on school property, at school-sponsored activities, and while in transit to or from school or school-sponsored events. Asthma medication is medicine prescribed for the treatment of asthma or anaphylactic reactions and includes a prescribed asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector.
- Providing for a supply of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors on school property for use by trained school personnel to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering from an anaphylactic reaction.

Certain entities and organizations are authorized to maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors. These authorized entities include recreation camps, colleges, universities, day care facilities, youth sports leagues, amusement parks, restaurants, places of employment, and sports arenas. G.S. 90-21.15A.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 397 would expand the definition of epinephrine auto-injectors to epinephrine delivery systems to include nasal sprays for the emergency administration of epinephrine. Local boards of education would be required to modify their policies regarding students possessing and self-administering epinephrine to also include nasal sprays. Local boards of education, charter schools, regional schools, and laboratory schools would still be required to provide epinephrine delivery systems for their school, including nasal sprays and auto-injectors.

The epinephrine delivery systems that authorized entities are permitted to maintain a supply of would include both epinephrine nasal sprays and auto-injectors.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 397 would become effective when it becomes law. The provisions related to schools would apply beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

BACKGROUND: In August 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved epinephrine nasal spray to treat allergic reactions in adults and children who weigh at least 66 pounds.