



HOUSE BILL 4: Sam's Law.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 1, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Kidwell, Cairns, Biggs, Paré	Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H4-CSRQ-5		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 4 would require public school units (PSUs) to develop Seizure Action Plans for students with a diagnosed seizure disorder. The Proposed Committee Substitute makes technical changes to conform to terminology used in the North Carolina General Statutes.*

CURRENT LAW: Under G.S. 115C-375.1, it is within the scope of duty of teachers and other public school employees authorized by the governing body to (i) administer any drugs or medication prescribed by a doctor upon written parent request, (ii) give emergency health care when delay would worsen the student's condition or endanger his or her life, and (iii) perform any other first aid or lifesaving techniques in which the employee has been trained in a program approved by the State Board of Education (SBE). No employee can be required to administer drugs or medication or attend lifesaving techniques programs. Individuals authorized to act are not liable in civil damages for any authorized act or any omission unless the act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

G.S. 115C-375.2A requires the principal of each public school to designate one or more school personnel to receive training on epinephrine auto-injectors. G.S. 115C-375.3 requires local boards of education and boards of directors of charter schools to follow guidelines adopted by the SBE to develop and implement diabetes care plans.

BILL ANALYSIS: The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 4 would require seizure action plans for students who have seizure disorders and seizure education programs for employees of PSUs.

Seizure Action Plan: The PCS for House Bill 4 defines a "seizure action plan" (Plan) to be a written, individualized health plan developed between a PSU and the parent of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder. The Plan must identify the health care needs of the student and prepare the school personnel to meet those needs. The PSU must keep each Plan on file in the office of a school administrator or school nurse and make it available to any school personnel. With the permission of the parent, PSU must make the Plan available to any volunteer responsible for the supervision of the student. Each plan is valid for one year.

The parent of a student with a seizure disorder can petition the PSU for the development of a Plan. The Plan must be developed according to the procedures established by the governing body of the PSU.

The Plan must include the following:

- A written statement from the student's health care provider that includes information on any prescribed seizure medication, the dosage and administration of the medication, and the symptoms that necessitate the administration of the medication.

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- A written statement from the parent indicating whether school personnel or volunteers are permitted to administer the medication. The permission must be renewed each year.
- If the parent allows school personnel or volunteers to administer the medication, the parent must provide the school with at least one, unopened dosage of the medication with an intact pharmaceutical label.
- A requirement that the school store the medication in a safe and secure location accessible by the trained school personnel and volunteers.

School Employee Administration and Training of Seizure Medication: Each PSU must ensure that at least one school employee in each school of the PSU is trained to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure medication. The governing body of the PSU must adopt minimum training requirements for the employees which are consistent with the guidelines established by the Epilepsy Foundation of America. Any volunteers that supervise students with seizure disorders may volunteer to attend these trainings.

Seizure Education Program: The governing body of each PSU must adopt a policy that outlines the requirements of seizure education program for all school personnel that have direct contact with students in grades K-12. The seizure education program must be administered annually in each PSU and meet the following requirements:

- Provide instructions in administering seizure medications.
- Educate on the signs and symptoms of seizures and how to respond.
- Be consistent with guidelines established with the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Self-Study Requirements: The governing body of each PSU must adopt a policy that requires all principals, school counselors, and teachers to complete at least one hour of self-study review of seizure disorder materials each school year. The governing body of the PSU must select the materials for study.

Informational Poster: The governing body of each PSU must ensure that an informational display on seizure first aid is posted in at least one visible, high-traffic area in each school of the PSU.

Adoption of Rules and Policies: The SBE must adopt rules for all schools operated under its control regarding seizures and the requirements of this bill. Local boards of education, the schools for the deaf and blind, charter schools, regional schools and the laboratory schools under the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina must adopt policies regarding seizures and the requirements of this bill.

Appropriation: The PCS would appropriate \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction to assist the SBE with the development of its seizure rules and other costs associated with the implementation of of this act. The SBE can share any materials or rule language with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the Division of Non-Public Education to facilitate the development of seizure policies consistent with this act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill becomes effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.