SB 137: Relative to School Nurse Certification

**Title/Introduction:** AN ACT relative to the certification of school nurses. SB 137 seeks to clarify RSA 200:29 requiring a school nurse to hold certification as a school nurse by the Department of Education.

**History/Context:** The original legislation passed in 2016 had specific language for the “grandfathering” of all school nurses employed prior to July 1, 2016. Unfortunately, this very last section was not included in the RSA 200:29 language. The Department of Education wrote Rules for the implementing certification that did include the grandfathering. SB 137 includes the “grandfather” clause and further clarifies the timeline and pathways for a school nurse to meet the requirements for Department of Education certification.

New Hampshire School Nurses Association supports SB 137.

**Pros:**

- Certification for school nurses currently in place would continue.
- SB 137 provides a specific timeline and process for school nurses to attain certification.
- Grants a two year extension to the grandfathering clause to include all nurses hired before July 1, 2019.
- School districts would be able to continue to hire a nurse not holding a baccalaureate degree and provides a timeline to align to achieve the education level requirement.
- Moves nursing in NH closer to meeting the goal of 80% BSN by 2020 initiative.

**Cons:**

- New grad nurses without experience are fine to work autonomously as a School Nurse.
- Bachelor prepared nurses are not affordable by school districts.

**Sponsor(s):** Sen. Kahn, Dist 10 (Prime Sponsor); Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Rep. McGuire, Merr. 29

**Committee:** Senate Education and Workforce Committees

**Position of the CGA:** Supports SB 137

[Click here](#) to access SB 137 on the NH General Court website.

A hearing of the Senate Education & Workforce Development Committee on this bill was held on 03-12-19. The Senate E&WD Committee voted ought to pass.

This bill was introduced to the House and referred to the House Education Committee on March 20, 2019. A hearing of the House Education Committee was held on 04-10-19. An Executive Session of House Education Committee was held on 04-30-19. House Education Committee
voted (12:7) ought to pass on 05-01-19 (minority report was inexpedient to legislate). The full House voted (190:147) **ought to pass** on 05-08-19. The bill was enrolled on 05-31-19. It is waiting the Governor's signature at this time. Law without signature, **Chapter Law 0144** as of 06-27-19.