

Senate Education Committee

Declan Donahue 271-3324

HB 231, prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical or mental health appointments, visits, or procedures without parental consent.

Hearing Date: April 2, 2025

Time Opened: 2:07 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:19 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas, Prentiss and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires school districts to create a policy prohibiting school district personnel from transporting any student who is a minor for any medical, mental health, or health-related procedures, appointments, or visits without knowledge and approval of a parent or guardian unless he or she is following a published school district emergency health or medical protocol or policy.

Sponsors:

Rep. Perez

Rep. Andrus

Rep. Dunn

Rep. Kuttub

Rep. Love

Rep. Noble

Rep. Sellers

Sen. Innis

Who supports the bill: Rep. Kristine Perez. 26 people signed in online in support of this bill. Please contact Declan Donahue for a full list.

Who opposes the bill: Rep. Tracy Bricchi and Rep. Home Damon. 24 people signed in online in opposition to this bill. Please contact Declan Donahue for the full list.

Who is neutral on the bill: Rep. Timothy Horrigan.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Rep. Kristine Perez

- This bill would prohibit the transportation of students in non-emergency medical situations. In doing so, it would protect both children and school personnel.
- This creates a policy for emergency situations, and the only current policy under student health services requirements was made in 2008.
- This is a strong policy defining an emergency so staff are clear on their expectations.

- Senator Prentiss asked if this bill was created in consultation with homeland security and emergency management.
- Rep. Perez said no, but that she consulted with some school districts. She had difficulty finding school districts that had a policy of this type on the books.
- Massachusetts has schools with teams for when 911 is called with designated roles in an emergency.
- This bill is for non-emergency policy, where the school cannot permit transport without parental permission, no matter who would be transporting.
- Substitute teachers are an example of staff who are not protected by current policy.
- Senator Altschiller asked if this would require school districts to develop a policy for non-emergency situations.
- Rep. Perez stated this bill requires both; unless school staff is following an emergency policy, they cannot transport students.
- Schools in Londonderry, Derry and Pelham have no policy. The existing policy from 2008 entailed calling the nurse, then the principal if they aren't available, and so on.
- Senator Altschiller asked if there was something that happened in Rep. Perez's district that made her want this to be a statewide policy.
- Rep. Perez said there was not, and that having grandchildren made her want to ensure they are protected. Teachers are under a microscope, and she wants to give clear boundaries to staff to know when they can and cannot transport students.

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Date Hearing Report completed: April 7, 2025