

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education and local public school governing authorities to develop and submit a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare on the accommodation of students with seizure disorders.

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:436.4, enacted in 2022, authorizes the parent or legal guardian of a student with a seizure disorder to submit a seizure action plan developed in collaboration with the student's treating physician to the school; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:436.4 requires the state Department of Education to develop or approve and make available two courses of instruction related to seizure disorders, including seizure recognition and first aid training, consisting of one course designed for school nurses and a separate course for school personnel, including teachers and school bus operators, who have regular contact with students with seizure disorders; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:436.4 requires each public school governing authority to require school nurses, employees, and bus operators to successfully complete the applicable course biennially; and

WHEREAS, seizure disorders, including epilepsy, constitute a chronic neurological health condition affecting thousands of children in this state, requiring ongoing medical management, individualized care planning, and appropriate accommodations within the school setting; and

WHEREAS, seizure disorders, including epilepsy, affect approximately four hundred seventy thousand children in this state, and epilepsy impacts more than three million individuals nationwide, demonstrating the widespread nature of this condition; and

WHEREAS, in this state, it is estimated that approximately eight thousand children have a seizure disorder, and tens of thousands of individuals statewide are living with epilepsy, demonstrating that a significant number of Louisiana students are directly impacted within the public school system; and

WHEREAS, the state Department of Education has identified that students with seizure disorders may face a range of educational and health-related challenges, including learning difficulties, medication side effects, missed instructional time, anxiety and stress, physical limitations, communication challenges, and a lack of awareness and understanding, all of which may adversely impact academic performance and student well-being; and

WHEREAS, timely administration of seizure rescue medications, as prescribed by a licensed physician, is the recognized standard of care and is critical in preventing prolonged seizures, status epilepticus, and other serious or life-threatening complications; and

WHEREAS, reports have indicated that, despite valid physician orders and submitted seizure action plans, some Louisiana students are being denied access to prescribed seizure rescue medications during the school day or during school-sponsored activities; and

WHEREAS, such denials are inconsistent with the treatment of other chronic health conditions in schools, such as asthma and diabetes, for which students are routinely afforded access to prescribed emergency medications; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:436.4 does not currently provide an enforcement mechanism, reporting requirements, or oversight provisions to ensure uniform compliance across school districts; and

WHEREAS, the absence of standardized reporting and accountability measures limits the ability of the legislature to evaluate the effectiveness of the law, ensure compliance, and identify gaps in implementation that may place students at risk; and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana, established in 1977, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing direct support and community-based services to individuals living with epilepsy across the state, and as a member of Epilepsy Alliance America, delivers programs including client services, seizure first aid and safety training, and educational and community outreach initiatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education, in collaboration with each local public school governing authority, to submit a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than January 1, 2027, containing the following information for each school district:

(1) Implementation of seizure action plans, including all of the following:

(a) The procedures in place to receive, review, and implement seizure action plans.

(b) Measures taken to help ensure such plans are accessible to appropriate personnel during the school day and school-sponsored activities.

(2) Training efforts, including all of the following:

(a) The number and percentage of school nurses who have completed seizure-related training.

(b) The number and percentage of teachers, school staff, and bus operators who have completed relevant training.

(c) A description of the training programs utilized and the frequency of such training.

(3) Medication access and administration, including all of the following:

(a) Policies governing the possession and administration of seizure rescue medications.

(b) Any challenges encountered in ensuring access to prescribed seizure rescue medications during the school day or school-sponsored activities.

(c) Steps taken or considered to address such challenges.

(4) Implementation and support of seizure training, including all of the following:

(a) Practices used by the district to support implementation of R.S. 17:436.4.

(b) Any areas in which additional guidance, resources, or support may be beneficial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana encourages the state Department of Education, in consultation with school districts and relevant stakeholders, to identify best practices and develop guidance to support consistent implementation of R.S. 17:436.4 across this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests the state Department of Education to study and provide recommendations regarding:

(1) Opportunities to improve awareness and training related to seizure disorders in schools.

(2) Approaches to help ensure that students with physician-prescribed seizure action plans have appropriate access to necessary care during the school day and school-related activities.

(3) Potential options for enhancing statewide coordination and data collection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana encourages the identification and pursuit of available funding sources, including federal grants and partnerships, to support training, education, and resources for students with seizure disorders and school personnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana and the secretary of the state Department of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Health and Welfare of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the importance of supporting students with seizure disorders and expresses its commitment to promoting the health and safety of Louisiana's youth through informed, evidence-based policy initiatives.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES