

## SENATE BILL NO. 49

INTRODUCED BY J. ESP

BY REQUEST OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GRANTING TO A RELATIVE WHO IS A CARETAKER BUT NOT A PARENT OF A CHILD THE POWER TO ENROLL THE CHILD IN SCHOOL, DISCUSS CERTAIN SCHOOL-RELATED MATTERS, AND CONSENT TO SCHOOL-RELATED MEDICAL CARE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FOR A CARETAKER RELATIVE EDUCATIONAL AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT; PROVIDING FOR GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 1-1-215, 20-5-412, 20-5-420, AND 72-5-103, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Purpose -- legislative intent -- parental rights -- definitions.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the rights of parents to the custody and control of a child are based upon liberties secured by the United States and Montana constitutions and that a parent's rights to that custody and control of a child are therefore normally supreme to the interests of other persons. The legislature also recognizes a growing phenomenon in which absent or otherwise unavailable parents have temporarily surrendered the custody and care of their children to a grandparent or other relative for lengthy periods of time. Regardless of the purpose of the absence, a child willfully surrendered to a relative for an extended time period still has the same needs as a child in the care of its parents. In this situation, a caretaker relative assumes responsibilities for the child but has no legal right of control over the child, a situation that interferes in the caretaker relative's ability to perform routine functions of child rearing, including tending to the educational and educationally related medical needs of the child. It is therefore the purpose of the legislature in these instances to protect the rights of a child granted by Article II, section 15, of the Montana constitution by granting a caretaker relative limited authority for a child left in the relative's care.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that a caretaker relative given the responsibility of caring for a child with little or no warning and without any other provision having been made for the child's care, such as the appointment of a guardian or the provision of a power of attorney, be granted authority to enroll the child in school, discuss with the school district the child's educational progress, and consent to an educational service and to medical care for the child related to an educational service without superseding any parental rights

regarding the child.

(3) [Sections 2 and 3] and this section are not intended to affect the rights and responsibilities of a parent, legal guardian, or other custodian regarding the child, do not grant legal custody of the child to the caretaker relative, and do not grant authority to the caretaker relative to consent to the marriage or adoption of the child or to receive notice of a medical procedure, including abortion, not consented to by the relative, if notice is required by law, for the child except as expressly provided in this section.

(4) For the purposes of [sections 2 and 3] and this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Caretaker relative" or "relative" means an individual related by blood, marriage, or adoption by another individual to the child whose care is undertaken by the relative, but who is not a parent, foster parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the child.

(b) "Caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit" or "affidavit" means an affidavit completed in compliance with [section 3].

(c) "Health care provider" means a person who provides medical care.

(d) "Medical care" means care, by a health care provider for which parental consent is normally required, for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of a mental, physical, or dental injury or disease that is needed to prevent serious bodily harm or death to the child.

(e) "Parent" means a biological or adoptive parent or other legal guardian of the child.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Enrollment by caretaker relative -- residency -- affidavit.** (1) A caretaker relative of a child who has voluntarily been given custody of the child by a parent of the child may enroll the child in school, using the rules of residence provided in 1-1-215, if:

(a) in leaving the child with the caretaker relative, the parent expressed no definite time period in which the parent would return for the child;

(b) the child is residing with the caretaker relative on a full-time basis;

(c) the caretaker relative is unable to contact the parent following the voluntary leaving of the child with the relative or the parent refuses to regain custody of the child after a written request by the relative to do so;

(d) no adequate provision, such as the appointment of a guardian ad litem or execution of a power of attorney, has otherwise been made for the educational needs of the child; and

(e) a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit is completed in compliance with [section 3].

(2) The school district may require additional reasonable evidence that the caretaker relative lives at the address provided in the affidavit.

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit -- use -- immunity**

**-- format.** (1) A caretaker relative of a child who has voluntarily been given custody of the child by a parent of the child has the same authority as a custodial parent of the child to discuss with an educator the educational progress of the child, consent to an educational service, and consent to medical care related to an educational service for the child for which parental consent is usually required if a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit is completed in compliance with this section.

(2) An affidavit is effective only if it is signed by the caretaker relative, under oath, before a notary public. A clear photographic copy of an affidavit completed in compliance with this section is sufficient in any instance in which an original is required by a school official or health care provider.

(3) Unless parental rights have been judicially terminated or unless the ability to give legal consent for the child to receive an educational service and any medical care related to the educational service for which parental consent is usually required has been granted to the caretaker relative pursuant to 40-4-211 and 40-4-228, a decision by a parent of the child communicated to a school official, a health care provider, or both, regarding the child supersedes a conflicting decision by a caretaker relative made pursuant to an affidavit completed in compliance with this section. However, a decision by a parent does not supersede a decision by a relative pursuant to an affidavit completed in compliance with this section if the decision by the parent endangers the life of the child. A school official or health care provider may require reasonable proof of authenticity of a decision by a parent intended to supersede a decision by a caretaker relative.

(4) (a) A [public or] private entity or individual who acts in good faith reliance on a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit completed in compliance with this section who has no actual knowledge of facts contrary to those indicated in the affidavit is not subject to civil liability or criminal prosecution or to a professional disciplinary procedure for an action that would have been proper if the facts had been as the entity or individual believed them to be.

(b) This subsection (4) applies even if an educational service or educationally related medical care, or both, are provided to a child against the wishes of a parent of that child if the person rendering the service does not have actual knowledge of the parent's wishes.

(5) A person who relies on an affidavit completed in compliance with this section has no obligation to make further inquiry or investigation.

(6) An affidavit completed in compliance with this section is effective for the earlier of:

(a) 6 months;

(b) until it has been revoked by the caretaker relative; or

(c) until the child no longer resides with the caretaker relative.

(7) If the child ceases to live with the caretaker relative or the caretaker relative revokes the affidavit, the caretaker relative shall provide written notice of that fact to all persons to whom the caretaker relative has given the affidavit or to whom the caretaker relative has caused the affidavit to be given.

(8) This section does not relieve a person from a violation of other law, and this section does not affect the rights of a child's parent except as provided in this section.

(9) A caretaker relative completing an affidavit in compliance with this section shall send a copy of the affidavit to the local and state offices of the department of public health and human services. The department shall treat the affidavit as an allegation of abandonment of the child.

(10) A caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit is invalid unless it is written in substantially the following form and contains the warning provided for in paragraph 5 of the format below:

CARETAKER RELATIVE'S

EDUCATIONAL AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT Use of this affidavit is authorized by [this section].

1. INSTRUCTIONS: The completion and signing of the affidavit before a notary public are sufficient to authorize educational enrollment and services and school-related medical care for the named child. Please print clearly.

The child named below lives in my home, and I am 18 years of age or older.

a. Name of child:

b. Child's date of birth:

c. My name (caretaker relative):

d. My home address:

e. My relationship to the child (the caretaker relative must be an individual related by blood, marriage, or adoption by another individual to the child whose care is undertaken by the caretaker relative, but who is not a parent, foster parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the child):

2. I hereby certify that this affidavit is not being used for the purpose of circumventing school residency laws, to take advantage of a particular academic program or athletic activity, or for an otherwise unlawful purpose.

3. My date and year of birth:

4. Check the following if true (all must be checked for this affidavit to apply):

[ ] A parent of the child identified in paragraph 1a of this affidavit has left the child with me and has expressed no definite time period when the parent will return for the child.

[ ] The child is now residing with me on a full-time basis.

[ ] I am unable to locate or contact the parent of the child at this time to notify that parent of my intended authorization, or the parent refuses to regain custody of the child even though I have asked in writing that the parent do so.

[ ] No adequate provision, such as appointment of a guardian ad litem or execution of a power of attorney, has been made for enrollment of the child in school, other educational services, or educationally related medical services.

5. WARNING: DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM IF ANY OF THE STATEMENTS ABOVE ARE INCORRECT, OR YOU WILL BE COMMITTING A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY A FINE, IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH.

6. I declare under penalty of false swearing under the laws of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of caretaker relative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature, county, state, and seal of notary public)

7. NOTICES:

a. Completion of this affidavit does not affect the rights of the child's parent or legal guardian regarding the care, custody, and control of the child and does not mean that the caretaker relative has legal custody of the child.

b. A person who relies on this affidavit has no obligation to make any further inquiry or investigation.

c. This affidavit is not valid for more than 6 months after the date on which it is signed by the caretaker relative.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

a. TO CARETAKER RELATIVES:

If the child stops living with you, you shall notify anyone to whom you have given this affidavit, as well as anyone who received the affidavit from someone else.

b. TO [PUBLIC AND] PRIVATE SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND [PUBLIC AND] PRIVATE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS:

(1). A [public or] private school official [or a public school district official] may require additional reasonable evidence that the caretaker relative lives at the address provided in item 1d of the affidavit form.

(2). A [public or] private entity or individual who acts in good faith reliance upon a caretaker relative

educational authorization affidavit to enroll a child in school or to provide educational services or educationally related medical care, or both, without actual knowledge of facts contrary to those indicated in the affidavit, is not subject to criminal prosecution or civil liability to any person, or subject to any professional disciplinary action, for reliance on an affidavit completed in compliance with [this section].

**Section 4.** Section 1-1-215, MCA, is amended to read:

**"1-1-215. Residence -- rules for determining.** Every person has, in law, a residence. In determining the place of residence, the following rules are to be observed:

(1) It is the place where a person remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose and to which the person returns in seasons of repose.

(2) There may ~~only~~ be only one residence. If a person claims a residence within Montana for any purpose, then that location is the person's residence for all purposes unless there is a specific statutory exception.

(3) A residence cannot be lost until another is gained.

(4) ~~The residence of a minor's parents or, if one of them is deceased or they do not share the same residence, the residence of the parent having legal custody or, if neither parent has legal custody, the residence of the parent with whom the minor customarily resides is the residence of the an unmarried minor. In is:~~

(a) the residence of a minor's parents;

(b) if one of the parents is diseased or the parents do not share the same residence, the residence of the parent having legal custody;

(c) if neither parent has legal custody, the residence of the parent with whom the minor customarily resides; or

(d) if the conditions in [section 2] are met, the residence of a caretaker relative, as defined in [section 1].

(5) In the case of a controversy, the district court may declare which parental residence is the residence of an unmarried minor.

~~(5)(6) The Except as provided in [sections 1 through 3], the residence of an unmarried minor who has a parent living cannot be changed by either the minor's own act or that of the minor's guardian.~~

~~(6)(7) The residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent."~~

**Section 5.** Section 20-5-412, MCA, is amended to read:

**"20-5-412. Definition -- parent-designated adult -- administration of glucagon -- training.** (1) As

used in 20-5-413 and this section, "parent-designated adult" means a school district employee, selected by a parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit pursuant to [section 3], or a guardian of a diabetic student, who voluntarily agrees to administer glucagon to the student.

(2) A parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit pursuant to [section 3], or a guardian of a diabetic student may designate an adult to administer glucagon to the student as provided in subsection (3). Written proof of the designation by a parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit pursuant to [section 3], or a guardian and acceptance of the designation by the parent-designated adult must be filed with the school district.

(3) A parent-designated adult may administer glucagon to a diabetic student in an emergency situation. The glucagon must be provided by the parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit pursuant to [section 3], or a guardian of the student.

(4) A parent-designated adult must be trained in recognizing hypoglycemia and the proper method of administering glucagon. Training must be provided by a health care professional, as defined in 33-36-103, or a recognized expert in diabetic care selected by the parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit pursuant to [section 3], or a guardian. Written documentation of the training received by the parent-designated adult must be filed with the school district."

**Section 6.** Section 20-5-420, MCA, is amended to read:

**"20-5-420. Self-administration of asthma medication.** (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Anaphylaxis" means a systemic allergic reaction that can be fatal in a short time period and is also known as anaphylactic shock.

(b) "Asthma" means a chronic disorder or condition of the lungs that requires lifetime, ongoing, medical intervention.

(c) "Medication" means a medicine, including inhaled bronchodilators, inhaled corticosteroids, and autoinjectable epinephrine, prescribed by a licensed physician as defined in 37-3-102, a physician assistant who has been authorized to prescribe asthma medications as provided in 37-20-404, or an advanced practice registered nurse with prescriptive authority as provided in 37-8-202(5).

(d) "Self-administration" means a pupil's discretionary use of the asthma medication prescribed for the pupil.

(2) A school, whether public or nonpublic, shall permit the self-administration of medication by a pupil

with asthma if the parents or guardians of the pupil provide to the school:

(a) written authorization, acknowledging and agreeing to the liability provisions in subsection (4), for the self-administration of medication;

(b) a written statement from the pupil's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse containing the following information:

(i) the name and purpose of the medication;

(ii) the prescribed dosage; and

(iii) the time or times at which or the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered;

(c) documentation that the pupil has demonstrated to the health care practitioner and the school nurse, if available, the skill level necessary to administer the medication as prescribed; and

(d) documentation that the pupil's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse has formulated a written treatment plan for managing asthma or anaphylaxis episodes of the pupil and for medication use by the pupil during school hours.

(3) The information provided by the parents or guardians must be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, the school's administrator.

(4) The school district or nonpublic school and its employees and agents are not liable as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the pupil unless an act or omission is the result of gross negligence, willful and wanton conduct, or an intentional tort. The parents or guardians of the pupil must be given a written notice and sign a statement acknowledging that the school district or nonpublic school may not incur liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the pupil and that the parents or guardians shall indemnify and hold harmless the school district or nonpublic school and its employees and agents against any claims, except a claim based on an act or omission that is the result of gross negligence, willful and wanton conduct, or an intentional tort.

(5) The permission for self-administration of medication is effective for the school year for which it is granted and must be renewed each subsequent school year or, if the medication dosage, frequency of administration, or other conditions change, upon fulfillment of the requirements of this section.

(6) If the requirements of this section are fulfilled, a pupil with asthma may possess and use the pupil's medication:

(a) while in school;

(b) while at a school-sponsored activity;



(c) while under the supervision of school personnel;

(d) before or after normal school activities, such as while in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property; or

(e) while in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

(7) If provided by the parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit pursuant to [section 3], or a guardian and in accordance with documents provided by the pupil's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, backup medication must be kept at a pupil's school in a predetermined location or locations to which the pupil has access in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency.

(8) Youth correctional facilities are exempt from this section and shall adopt policies related to access and use of asthma medications."

**Section 7.** Section 72-5-103, MCA, is amended to read:

**"72-5-103. Delegation of powers by parent or guardian.** (1) (a) A Subject to subsection (1)(b), a parent or a guardian of a minor or incapacitated person, by a properly executed power of attorney, may delegate to another person, for a period not exceeding 6 months, any powers regarding care, custody, or property of the minor child or ward, including the power to consent to an educational service or to enroll a child in school, in which case the residence of the person to whom the power is granted is, with the consent of that person, considered to be the residence of the child.;

(b) except A power of attorney may not delegate the power to consent to marriage or adoption of a minor ward.

(2) The 6-month limitation provided in subsection (1)(a) does not apply to:

(a) a member of the Montana national guard who serves for more than 180 continuous days on duty pursuant to Title 10 or 32 of the United States Code or on state active duty pursuant to Article VI, section 13, of the Montana constitution;

(b) a member of the active duty military forces of the United States; or

(c) a member of the federal reserves who serves for more than 180 continuous days on duty pursuant to Title 10 of the United States Code.

(3) As used in this section, "federal reserves" means the United States air force reserve, army reserve, navy reserve, marine corps reserve, or coast guard reserve."

**NEW SECTION. Section 8. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 3] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 5, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 5, apply to [sections 1 through 3].

**NEW SECTION. Section 9. Two-thirds vote required -- contingent voidness.** Because [section 3(4)(a)] limits governmental liability, Article II, section 18, of the Montana constitution requires a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature for passage. If [this act] is not approved by at least two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature, then the bracketed language in [section 3(4)(a)] and the bracketed language in the notice to school officials and health care providers in part 8b of [section 3(10)] is void.

**NEW SECTION. Section 10. Applicability.** [This act] applies to a caretaker relative to whom a minor is given by a parent, all as defined in [section 1], after October 1, 2007, for care by the relative.

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