



VIRGINIA

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BILL ON SEIZURE SAFE SCHOOLS HEADING TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

School staff will be better prepared to step in if a student has a seizure

RICHMOND - Today, the Virginia House of Delegates passed Seizure Safe Schools legislation in a 86-13 vote. The bill, also known as the Jamie and Brie Strong Act, provides schools with the resources to protect students in the event of a seizure. It now makes its way to the governor's desk having already passed the Senate in a 35-4 vote.

"This bill is of critical importance because there are only vague standards for how to treat seizures in our schools," said Suzanne Bischoff, CEO of the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia (EFVA). "In many hours of mediating between parents and schools it has become clear that well-prepared teachers not only save their pupils but also save themselves lots of time."

Last year, the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia provided 1,200 school staff with voluntary seizure recognition and first aid training. The bill makes this type of training mandatory. The key bill components are that:

- All school nurses and staff receive biennial training in seizure recognition and first aid
- Schools carry seizure action plans, which contain detailed information about seizure treatment, for all students with a history of epilepsy or a seizure disorder
- A Good Samaritan Clause protecting those responding to the seizure from legal action

Epilepsy affects 11,000 school children in Virginia, but of course, anyone can have a seizure at any time. In fact, the Epilepsy Foundation of America (EFA) estimates that 1 in 10 people will experience a seizure in their lifetime. If signed by Governor Northam, Virginia would become the 6th state to enact the Epilepsy Foundation of America's Seizure Safe Schools policy, joining the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New Jersey, and Texas.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia commends the grassroots efforts of the Virginia parents and students who pushed this legislation forward, as well as the Epilepsy Foundation of America for their support. The bill will enable schools to truly be prepared in the event of a seizure.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia (EFVA) leads the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and accelerate therapies that save lives. Established in 1978, the foundation promotes awareness and provides assistance to the 84,800 Virginians living with epilepsy. Learn more at www.epilepsyva.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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