

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 84

**SESSION:** 2001 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers

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**Analyst:** Amy S. Petschauer, 6-5808

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## Overview

Asthma is a disease of the respiratory system. An asthma attack occurs when people who have asthma experience trouble breathing. Allergies, infections, exercise, changes in temperature and smoke can cause an asthma attack. During an asthma attack, the muscles around the airways tighten and the lining inside the airways swell and become clogged with thick mucous, making it difficult to breathe.

### Section

- 1 **Exclusions; administration of drugs and medicine.** Amends § 121A.22, subd. 2. Allows a student to use an asthma inhaler to administer prescription asthma medication if a parent submits to the district written authorization permitting the student to use the inhaler, the inhaler is properly labeled, and the parent does not request school personnel to administer the medication. Requires a parent to submit written authorization annually.
- 2 **Possession and use of asthma inhalers by asthmatic students.** Adds § 121A.221. Paragraph (a) requires school districts that provide school nursing services to assess the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an inhaler in a school setting and enter into the student's school health record a plan to implement safe possession and use of asthma inhalers. Paragraph (b), provides that, for schools without a school nurse or school nursing services, the student's parent or guardian must submit written verification from the prescribing professional documenting that an assessment of the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an inhaler in a school setting has been completed.