

## HB 823 -- Model School Wellness Program

Sponsor: Tilley

This bill establishes the Model School Wellness Program, administered by the Department of Health and Senior Services, to create pilot programs in school districts encouraging students to avoid tobacco use, balance their diets, get regular exercise, and become familiar with chronic medical conditions resulting from being overweight. School districts receiving the grants will establish programs that address academic success and encourage links between school and home. The tobacco prevention initiative will focus on fourth and fifth grades, while the obesity prevention element will cover kindergarten through fifth grade. The bill requires hands-on professional development and an evaluation after the 2005-2006 school year that will include changes in body mass index and measurement of changing behaviors related to nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco use.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date.