

Senate Study Bill 1054 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON RAGAN)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to vision screening for school children.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.39D Vision screening.

2 1. School districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall
3 provide vision screenings to all students in grades one and
4 three, all out-of-state transfer students, and any students
5 referred for a vision screening by a parent or the student's
6 teacher. Documentation of a comprehensive eye examination
7 performed by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist within
8 the previous twelve months shall waive the requirement of a
9 vision screening.

10 2. School personnel shall obtain or retain documentation
11 of screening results and provide parents with any follow-up
12 recommendations. The parent or guardian of a student who
13 demonstrates during the vision screening specific visual
14 problems, as identified by the department of public health,
15 shall cause the student to undergo a comprehensive eye
16 examination by a licensed ophthalmologist or licensed
17 optometrist. The parent or guardian of the student shall
18 provide the student's school district or accredited nonpublic
19 school with documentation of the examination within three
20 months. The student's school district or accredited nonpublic
21 school shall notify the student's parent or guardian who fails
22 to furnish the required follow-up documentation in writing of
23 the current vision screening and examination requirements set
24 forth in this section and shall also notify the department.

25 3. A student shall not be prohibited from attending school
26 based upon the failure of a parent or guardian to furnish
27 a report of the student's follow-up eye examination to the
28 student's school district or accredited nonpublic school.

29 4. Vision screening pursuant to this section shall be
30 conducted by an individual trained in vision screening
31 techniques within the previous three years. The department
32 shall develop rules pursuant to chapter 17A regarding training
33 standards. A medical professional or certified vision
34 screener conducting vision screenings for purposes of school
35 certification shall use approved techniques. Such techniques

1 shall follow vision screening protocols that show high degrees
2 of testability and reliability, as scientifically validated
3 through peer review literature, and shall include appropriate
4 follow-up procedures.

5 5. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
6 regarding the requirements of this section. The department
7 shall submit a report to the general assembly by January 1
8 each year regarding the results of vision screenings. The
9 first report shall be submitted by January 1, 2013, and shall
10 include an assessment by the department of whether a source of
11 financial assistance for parents would increase compliance with
12 referrals for eye examinations.

13

EXPLANATION

14 This bill requires school districts and accredited nonpublic
15 schools to provide vision screenings to students in grades
16 one and three, out-of-state transfer students, and parent or
17 teacher referrals. The bill provides for a waiver for students
18 who have had a previous eye examination.

19 The bill requires school districts and accredited nonpublic
20 schools to obtain or retain documentation of screening results
21 and provide parents with any follow-up recommendations. The
22 bill requires a student who does not pass the vision screening
23 to have a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed
24 ophthalmologist or optometrist. The bill requires the parent
25 or guardian of the student to provide documentation to the
26 student's school district or accredited nonpublic school.
27 The bill requires school districts and accredited nonpublic
28 schools to notify a parent or guardian who fails to furnish
29 the required follow-up documentation of the current vision
30 screening and examination requirements and also to notify the
31 department of public health.

32 The bill provides that a student shall not be prohibited from
33 attending school based upon the failure of a parent or guardian
34 to furnish a report of the student's screening or follow-up
35 eye examination to the student's school district or accredited

1 nonpublic school.

2 The bill provides that vision screenings shall be conducted
3 in accordance with certain requirements. The bill directs
4 the department of public health to develop rules pursuant to
5 Code chapter 17A regarding training standards for individuals
6 conducting such vision screenings.

7 The bill directs the department of public health to develop
8 rules pursuant to Code chapter 17A regarding the requirements
9 of the bill. The bill requires the department to submit annual
10 reports on vision screening beginning on January 1, 2013. The
11 bill provides that the first such report shall include an
12 assessment by the department of whether a source of financial
13 assistance for parents would increase compliance with referrals
14 for eye examinations.

15 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
16 section 25B.3.