
Education Committee

HB 1951

Brief Description: Regarding vision exams for school-aged children.

Sponsors: Representatives Quall, Talcott, Haler, Morrell, Campbell, O'Brien, Hankins, Kagi and McDermott.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires a vision examination be completed for a student diagnosed with a learning disability or a student placed in an alternative learning environment due to a perceived reluctance or inability to learn at a normal pace.

Hearing Date: 2/23/05

Staff: Sydney Forrester (786-7120).

Background:

School districts are required to provide screenings for the visual acuity of all children in kindergarten, and grades one, two, three, five, and seven. In addition, visual acuity screenings must be provided for any child showing signs of possible vision loss referred to the school or district by a parent, guardian or school employee. If resources permit, schools are directed to screen children at other grade levels. Screening must be performed by persons competent to administer the screening procedures as a function of their professional background and training or as a function of their special training and demonstrated competence under supervision.

Summary of Bill:

A complete eye examination must be performed for a student diagnosed with a learning disability, or a student who is scheduled to be placed in an alternative learning environment due to a perceived reluctance or inability to learn at a normal pace. The eye examination must include testing for: acuity and refraction; accommodative function; mobility; vergence; eye movement, and an assessment of internal and external ocular health.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.