

SHB 1951 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 04/06/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

4 (1) Vision is one of the primary senses used in the early learning
5 process;

6 (2) Vision problems affecting preschool and school-age children can
7 impact a child's ability to learn;

8 (3) Economically disadvantaged children have less access to health
9 care and therefore, may have a proportionally greater likelihood of
10 having undiagnosed vision problems that may affect their ability to
11 learn;

12 (4) Vision problems in young children can be misinterpreted as
13 neurodevelopmental delay or as learning disabilities; and

14 (5) Current screening for visual acuity at distance is insufficient
15 to detect all vision defects.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of health shall convene
17 a work group to reevaluate visual screening of children in public
18 schools and make any recommendations regarding changes to the rules.
19 In developing its recommendations, the work group shall, at a minimum:

20 (a) Consider the benefits of complete eye exams on public school
21 children;

22 (b) Consider when visual screening, complete eye exams, or both
23 should take place in preschool or kindergarten through high school in
24 order to ensure children are best prepared for the learning
25 environment; and

26 (c) Consider what screening techniques would be appropriate in a
27 school setting.

28 (2) In developing the recommendations, the department of health

1 shall consult with the office of the superintendent of public
2 instruction, the state board of health, the optometric physicians of
3 Washington, and the Washington academy of eye physicians and surgeons.

4 (3) The work group shall make a preliminary report to the
5 legislature and the state board of health by December 1, 2005. The
6 work group shall make final recommendations to the legislature and to
7 the state board of health by December 1, 2006.

8 (4) If specific funding for this act is not referenced by bill or
9 chapter number in the biennial omnibus appropriations act by June 30,
10 2005, this act is null and void."

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11 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "children;" strike the
12 remainder of the title and insert "and creating new sections."

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