
**Health Care & Wellness
Committee**

HB 2516

Brief Description: Eliminating requirements for scoliosis screening in schools.

Sponsors: Representatives Green, Roberts, Schual-Berke and Loomis.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes requirements to screen students in public schools for scoliosis.

Hearing Date: 1/23/08

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

Scoliosis is a condition in which the spine curves away from the center of the body. Treatment, when necessary, may include the use of a brace to straighten the spine or, in severe cases, surgery to correct the curve and fuse the bones together.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is directed to require scoliosis screening for students in public schools at least three times between fourth and eleventh grades. According to standards established by the State Board of Health, the screenings must occur annually in fifth, seventh, and ninth grades. The procedures used must be consistent with the standards of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Parents or guardians of any student suspected of having scoliosis must be notified of the screening results and be provided information about scoliosis and treatment services available from health care providers.

In the 2004-05 school year, 148,813 students were screened for scoliosis in Washington. The screening program resulted in referrals to a health care provider for 3.39 percent of the screened students with .02 percent of those students receiving a brace or surgery.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Legislative findings are made relating to shortages of school health personnel and the increased responsibilities of planning and delivery of school health services. In addition, the findings state that the diagnosis and treatment are most appropriately managed through a primary care provider rather than schools.

The scoliosis screening program for public school students is repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 21, 2008.

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