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HOUSE BILL 1322

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Green, Morrell, Hinkle, Kirby, Kelley, Moeller, Blake, Seaquist, Rolfes, Cody, and Simpson

Read first time 01/19/09. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to scoliosis screening in schools; creating a new  
2 section; and repealing RCW 28A.210.180, 28A.210.190, 28A.210.200,  
3 28A.210.210, 28A.210.220, 28A.210.240, and 28A.210.250.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that schools and  
6 their health personnel are important elements in ensuring the health of  
7 Washington's youth. Allowing school personnel to focus their efforts  
8 on providing the best care is essential for continued success.

9 Schools are currently required to screen students for scoliosis,  
10 which affects approximately two to three percent of the general  
11 population. Detection and identification of cases that require medical  
12 attention is vital. However, the legislature finds that schools are  
13 not the ideal setting for these screenings, nor are they the best use  
14 of school health personnel resources. The lack of a simple and rapid  
15 test that provides reliable diagnoses results in referrals to  
16 unnecessary care, which is limited in effectiveness for mild to  
17 moderate cases. This may lead to financial and emotional hardship for  
18 the student and family. Scoliosis screening is more appropriately

1 provided as part of preventive care by a student's primary care  
2 provider.

3 Removing scoliosis screening as a responsibility of school  
4 districts will result in more reliable diagnoses, and allow school  
5 health personnel to focus their efforts on improving the health of  
6 their unique student populations.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The following acts or parts of acts are each  
8 repealed:

9 (1) RCW 28A.210.180 (Screening program for scoliosis--Purpose) and  
10 1991 c 86 s 1, 1990 c 33 s 201, 1985 c 216 s 1, & 1979 c 47 s 1;

11 (2) RCW 28A.210.190 (Screening program for scoliosis--Definitions)  
12 and 1991 c 86 s 2, 1990 c 33 s 202, 1985 c 216 s 2, & 1979 c 47 s 2;

13 (3) RCW 28A.210.200 (Screening program for scoliosis--Examination  
14 of children--Personnel making examinations, training for) and 1991 c 86  
15 s 3, 1990 c 33 s 203, 1985 c 216 s 3, & 1979 c 47 s 3;

16 (4) RCW 28A.210.210 (Screening program for scoliosis--Records--  
17 Parents or guardians notification, contents) and 1990 c 33 s 204, 1985  
18 c 216 s 4, & 1979 c 47 s 4;

19 (5) RCW 28A.210.220 (Screening program for scoliosis--Distribution  
20 of rules, records and forms) and 1990 c 33 s 205 & 1979 c 47 s 5;

21 (6) RCW 28A.210.240 (Screening program for scoliosis--Pupils  
22 exempt, when) and 1985 c 216 s 5 & 1979 c 47 s 6; and

23 (7) RCW 28A.210.250 (Screening program for scoliosis--Sanctions  
24 against school officials failing to comply) and 1990 c 33 s 207 & 1979  
25 c 47 s 7.

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