

By Senator Garcia

38-01136-13

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to vision screening of preschool
3 students; amending s. 381.0056, F.S.; providing a
4 definition; requiring district school boards to
5 conduct vision screenings on students entering
6 prekindergarten or kindergarten; requiring
7 comprehensive eye examinations of students who fail to
8 pass the vision screenings; requiring licensed
9 optometrists and ophthalmologists to submit
10 examination results to school health personnel and the
11 student's parent or guardian; authorizing the
12 Department of Health, in cooperation with the
13 Department of Education, to adopt rules necessary to
14 implement the vision screening requirements; providing
15 an effective date.

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17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19 Section 1. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (2) and
20 paragraph (f) is added to subsection (6) of section 381.0056,
21 Florida Statutes, and subsection (7) of that section is amended,
22 to read:

23 381.0056 School health services program.—

24 (2) As used in this section:

25 (g) "Vision screening" means an eye examination conducted
26 on a student entering prekindergarten or kindergarten as
27 required under paragraph (6) (f).

28 (6) The district school board shall:

29 (f) Within 30 days before the start of each school year, in

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30 cooperation with the Department of Health, conduct vision
31 screenings of prekindergarten and kindergarten students. The
32 student's parent or guardian may present to school health
33 personnel certification that the student has passed a vision
34 screening conducted by personnel that have been approved by the
35 Department of Health and trained in vision screening techniques.
36 For students who fail to pass the vision screening, a
37 comprehensive eye examination must be performed by a licensed
38 optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the student's parent or
39 guardian. The licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist who
40 conducts the comprehensive examination shall forward a written
41 report of the examination results to school health personnel and
42 provide a copy of the report to the student's parent or
43 guardian. The report shall indicate any pertinent diagnosis,
44 treatment, prognosis, recommendations, and evidence of followup
45 treatment, if necessary.

46 (7) The Department of Health, in cooperation with the
47 Department of Education, may adopt rules necessary to implement
48 this section. The rules may include standards and requirements
49 for developing school health services plans, conducting school
50 health screening, conducting vision screening, meeting emergency
51 health needs, maintaining school health records, and
52 coordinating with education programs for exceptional students.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.