John Rau *Legislative Service Commission*

H.B. 276

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. R. Miller, Strahorn, Oakar, Beatty, Otterman, Carano, Sykes, Rhine, Fedor, Flannery, Cirelli, Barrett, Allen, Ford, Britton

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires a student enrolled for the first time in the third, eighth, and tenth grades to be screened for vision problems.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Current law, not changed by the bill, provides that prior to November 1 of the school year in which a student is enrolled for the first time in either kindergarten or first grade, the student must be screened for "hearing, vision, speech and communications, and health or medical problems or for any developmental disorders."[1] If the results of the screenings reveal that a student has "special learning needs," the district must conduct further assessments to determine if the student is a disabled student entitled to receive special education and related services.[2] Current law permits a school district either to provide the screening itself or to request the parent to obtain the screening for their child. Prior to August 1 of any school year, each district board must provide information about the district's screening program to the parents of students subject to the screening requirements. If the board requests that the parents themselves obtain the screening services, the board must also provide a list of service providers, including a list of those providers that do not assess a fee for the screening

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[1] *R.C. 3313.673(A)(1)(a).*

[2] *R.C. 3313.673(A)(2). Each board of education is required to maintain records of any vision and hearing tests it conducts and to make statistical data from such records available to state and local education, health, and human services agencies. Individual records must be made available to such agencies where there is evidence that no measures have been taken to correct any vision or hearing problems detected in the tests. (R.C. 3313.50, not in the bill.)*

service.[3] Finally, the law also permits a parent, by signing a written statement, to opt not to have their child screened.[4]

The bill adds the requirement that prior to November 1 of the school year in which a student is enrolled for the first time in third, eighth, and tenth grade, the student must also be screened for vision problems.[5] The same provisions giving districts the option to have parents be responsible for the screening, requiring parental notification, and allowing parents the opportunity to exclude their children from the process also apply to the screenings in these higher grade levels.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	05-29-01	p. 484

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[3] *R.C. 3313.673(B). The law also requires the local board of health to conduct a health screening for each student in any school district that elects to screen students but has not hired a school physician (R.C. 3313.73, not in the bill).*

[4] *R.C. 3313.763(C). A student is also exempted from the district's vision screening program if the student's parent presents to district officials a "certificate" indicating that the student has been examined by either a licensed physician or optometrist within the 12 months prior to the date of the district's screening (R.C. 3313.69, not in the bill).*

[5] *R.C. 3313.673(A)(1)(b).*