

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Bruun, Cannon, Harker, Hoyle, Kotek, Maurer, Nathanson, Thompson, Greenlick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Kennemer
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/3, 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Department of Education (DOE) to establish pilot program that operates in three school districts in the state for the purpose of providing vision screenings to students. Authorizes the DOE to contract pilot program with a public or private entity to implement pilot program. States that vision screening is voluntary. Identifies reporting criteria for vision screening results. Directs DOE to report to the 76th Legislative Assembly. Sunsets June 30, 2011. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Goals and objective of pilot program
- Concerns with vision screening definition
- Department of Education support
- Current groups conducting vision screenings in Oregon
- Proposed amendments
- Review of contracted services

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original bill. Deletes vision screening definition. Modifies student quantity to “greatest number of students practicable.” Identifies reporting criteria for vision screening results. States that vision screening is voluntary. Directs DOE to report to the 76th Legislative Assembly. Appropriates \$150,000 to DOE.

BACKGROUND: Vision screening programs in schools assist in identifying students with visual impairments. Visual problems can and do affect the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of children. Early detection of vision problems can provide a child more opportunity for educational success. Because visual loss may impede normal development, the earlier visual impairments are diagnosed and treated, the more favorable the outlook for correction or improvement of the child's general well-being.

Young children with vision problems often do not know that the way they see the world is not the way everyone sees it. Some studies indicate that vision problems affect one in 20 preschoolers. They also affect one in four school children. Additionally, some studies indicate that without early detection and treatment, children's vision problems can lead to permanent vision loss and learning difficulties.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.