

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: HB 3000 A**Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

Prepared by: Tim Walker
Reviewed by: Linda Ames, Doug Wilson
Date: 03/29/2013

Measure Description:

Requires public school students seven years of age or younger who are beginning educational program to have vision screening.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), School Districts, Department of Education, Early Learning Council, Education Service Districts (ESD)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:**Local Government Mandate:**

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis: This bill requires vision screening for students seven years of age or younger and requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish rules.

The Oregon Health Authority indicates no fiscal impact due to this bill. Individuals requiring screening would most likely be covered under the Oregon Health Plan, which covers annual vision exams.

ODE estimates that it may cost approximately \$20,000 General Fund to do the required rule writing and report development for the Legislature.

School Districts report that vision screening is currently offered by some school districts and the cost would be minimal to those districts. Districts that do not currently offer vision screening may incur additional costs. At this time, an accurate count of districts offering vision screening is not available and this cost is unknown.

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Fagan, Gomberg, Gorsek, Huffman, Parrish, Reardon, Sprenger, Whisnant, Gelser
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Rick Berkobien, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/27, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires public school students seven years of age or younger or beginning a program with education provider to have vision screening. Directs education provider to require students seven years of age or younger, or who are beginning an educational program to submit to provider documents certifying: vision screening, and any further examinations or necessary treatments needed. Specifies certification must be provided within 120 days after student begins educational program. Requires education provider to keep record on file and notify parent of vision screening and any further examinations or treatments needed. Defines vision screening as eye test to identify potential vision health problems. Directs State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement measure. Mandates vision screening must be provided by person licensed by Oregon Board of Optometry, Oregon Medical Board, a health care practitioner, or school nurse. Defines “eye exam” as exam which must be conducted by person licensed by Oregon Board of Optometry or person licensed by the Oregon Medical Board and trained in eye surgery and eye disease, and involves any diagnosis of the eye and any measurement or assistance of powers or range or vision of the eye. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of measure for school children
- Efforts of multiple people to bring measure forward

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: (Adopted -3 amendment) Defines “eye exam” as exam which must be conducted by person licensed by Oregon Board of Optometry or person licensed by the Oregon Medical Board and trained in eye surgery and eye disease, and involves any diagnosis of the eye and any measurement or assistance of powers or range or vision of the eye.

BACKGROUND: In the childhood years it is important to detect any vision problems that may impair a child’s ability to learn. The screening process can help determine which infants and children may need further diagnostic assessment, or an educational evaluation. National data indicate that about 25% of students need glasses by the time they reach high school. Furthermore, about 3% of children suffer from amblyopia, a condition that may result in blindness in one eye if not detected and treated before age seven.