

**HB 3000**  
**Relating to student vision health**

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House Bill 3000 requires public school students seven years of age or younger, or who are beginning an educational program, to have vision screening. The measure directs the education provider to submit documents certifying vision screening, and any further examinations or necessary treatments. The bill allows that a student is not required to submit certification under certain circumstances.

The Education Subcommittee recommends HB 3000 be amended and reported out do pass, as amended.

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carriers – House: Rep. Whisnant  
Rep. Williamson  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Devlin

**Revenue:**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and be Printed B-Engrossed

**Vote:**

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

**Prepared By:** Tim Walker, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Meeting Date:** June 6, 2013

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**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:**

- Effect of amendment
- Application of exception to certification

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Clarifies when a student is not required to submit certification required under subsection (2) of the bill.

**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.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: HB 3000 B**

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: 06/04/2013

**Measure Description:**

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

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

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

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

See Analysis.

**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 bill also provides a student is not required to submit certification under certain circumstances.

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.

HB 3000-A4  
(LC 2251)  
5/2/13 (HRL/ps)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
A-ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 3000**

1 On page 2 of the printed A-engrossed bill, delete lines 10 through 12 and  
2 insert:

3 “(3) A student is not required to submit certification as required under  
4 subsection (2) of this section if the student provides a statement from the  
5 parent or guardian of the student that:

6 “(a) The student submitted certification to a prior education provider; or

7 “(b) The vision screening or eye examination is contrary to the religious  
8 beliefs of the student or the parent or guardian of the student.”.

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