

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
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: Defines “eye exam” as exam that 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.