

Senate Bill 274

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires student seven years of age or younger who is beginning education program to have comprehensive eye examination. Provides exceptions.

Establishes Comprehensive Eye Examination Account for purpose of funding comprehensive eye examinations for students for whom cost of examination is financial hardship.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Education for deposit into Comprehensive Eye Examination Account.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2013.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to student vision examinations; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **"Comprehensive eye examination" means an eye examination that:**

6 (A) **Is conducted by an optometrist licensed by the Oregon Board of Optometry or an**
7 **ophthalmologist licensed by the Oregon Medical Board.**

8 (B) **Involves any diagnosis of the eye and any measurement or assistance of the powers**
9 **or range of vision of the eye.**

10 (b) **"Education provider" means:**

11 (A) **An entity that offers a program that is recognized as an Oregon prekindergarten**
12 **program under ORS 329.170 to 329.200.**

13 (B) **A school district board.**

14 (C) **A private school.**

15 (D) **A parent, legal guardian or private teacher providing education as provided by ORS**
16 **339.030.**

17 (2) **Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, each education provider shall re-**
18 **quire a student who is seven years of age or younger and who is beginning an educational**
19 **program with the education provider for the first time to submit certification that the stu-**
20 **dent has received a comprehensive eye examination. The certification must be provided no**
21 **later than 120 days after the student began the educational program.**

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

25 (a) **The student submitted certification to a prior education provider;**

26 (b) **The payment for a comprehensive eye examination is a financial hardship; or**

27 (c) **The comprehensive eye examination is contrary to the religious beliefs of the student**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 or the parent or guardian of the student.

2 (4) For each education provider, a designated person shall:

3 (a) Ensure that the requirements of this section are met. Failure by a student to meet
4 the requirements of this section may not result in a program or school prohibiting the stu-
5 dent from attending the program or school, but may result in withholding report cards or
6 similar actions.

7 (b) Provide the parent or guardian of each student with information about comprehensive
8 eye examinations, including information described in subsection (5) of this section.

9 (5) The Department of Education, in consultation with the Oregon Board of Optometry,
10 shall make available to each education provider a form that may be provided to parents and
11 guardians to give parents and guardians information about financial assistance for compre-
12 hensive eye examinations and information about resources that are available for providing
13 comprehensive eye examinations.

14 (6) Nothing in this section is intended to supersede any requirements related to the reg-
15 ular provision of vision screenings in the schools of this state.

16 **SECTION 2.** (1) Section 1 of this 2013 Act becomes operative July 1, 2014.

17 (2) Section 1 of this 2013 Act first applies to the 2014-2015 school year.

18 **SECTION 3.** The Comprehensive Eye Examination Account is established in the State
19 Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Comprehen-
20 sive Eye Examination Account shall be credited to the account. Moneys in the Comprehen-
21 sive Eye Examination Account are continuously appropriated to the Department of
22 Education for the purpose of paying for comprehensive eye examinations, as required under
23 section 1 of this 2013 Act, for students for whom the examination is a financial hardship.

24 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
25 ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, out of the
26 General Fund, the amount of \$50,000, which shall be deposited in the Comprehensive Eye
27 Examination Account established by section 3 of this 2013 Act.

28 **SECTION 5.** This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
29 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect
30 July 1, 2013.