

VISION SCREENING AMENDMENTS

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Wayne L. Niederhauser

House Sponsor: Todd E. Kiser

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to vision screening in schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides conditions when a licensed health care professional may participate in a school district's free vision screening program;
- ▶ provides that significantly reduced or free vision care provided to a low income or moderate income patient through a charitable nonprofit organization does not constitute private vision care for certain purposes; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53A-11-203, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2001, Chapter 73

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53A-11-203** is amended to read:



28 **53A-11-203. Vision screening.**

29 (1) A child under seven years of age entering school for the first time in this state must
30 present the following to the school:

31 (a) a certificate signed by a licensed physician, optometrist, or other licensed health
32 professional approved by the division, stating that the child has received vision screening to
33 determine the presence of amblyopia or other visual defects. As used in this section, "division"
34 means the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, State Office of Education;
35 or

36 (b) a written statement signed by at least one parent or legal guardian of the child that
37 the screening violates the personal beliefs of the parent or legal guardian.

38 (2) The division shall provide vision screening report forms to persons approved by the
39 division to conduct the screening.

40 (3) Each school district may conduct free vision screening clinics for children aged
41 3-1/2 to seven.

42 (4) The division shall maintain a central register of children, aged 3-1/2 to seven, who
43 fail vision screening and who are referred for follow-up treatment. The register shall include
44 the name of the child, age or birthdate, address, cause for referral, and follow-up results. Each
45 school district shall report referral follow-up results to the division.

46 (5) The division shall coordinate and supervise the training of persons who serve as
47 vision screeners.

48 (6) (a) A licensed health professional providing vision care to private patients may not
49 participate as a screener in free vision screening programs provided by school districts.

50 (b) For purposes of Subsection (6)(a), providing vision care to private patients does not
51 include vision care provided:

52 (i) through a charitable nonprofit organization;

53 (ii) to low income or moderate income patients; and

54 (iii) at no cost or at a significantly reduced cost.

55 (7) The Department of Health shall, by rule, set standards and procedures for vision
56 screening required by this chapter, and shall provide the division with copies of rules,
57 standards, instructions, and test charts necessary for conducting vision screening.

58 (8) The division shall supervise screening, referral, and follow-up required by this

59 chapter.

Legislative Review Note
as of 2-3-10 6:00 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

S.B. 144 - Vision Screening Amendments

Fiscal Note

2010 General Session
State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.
