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HOUSE BILL 1377

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Peery, Cole, G. Fisher, Betrozoff, Miller and Jacobsen; by request of Board of Health.

Read first time January 28, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the screening program for scoliosis; amending  
2 RCW 28A.210.180, 28A.210.190, and 28A.210.200; and repealing RCW  
3 28A.210.230.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.210.180 and 1990 c 33 s 201 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 The legislature recognizes that the condition known as scoliosis,  
8 a lateral curvature of the spine commonly appearing in adolescents, can  
9 develop into a permanent, crippling disability if left untreated. Early  
10 diagnosis and referral can often result in the successful treatment of  
11 this condition and greatly reduce the need for major surgery.  
12 Therefore, the purpose of RCW 28A.210.180 through 28A.210.250 is to  
13 recognize that a school screening program is an invaluable tool for  
14 detecting the number of adolescents with scoliosis. It is the intent  
15 of the legislature to insure that the superintendent of public

1 instruction provide and require screening of children for the condition  
2 known as scoliosis (~~(of all children in the highest risk age group,~~  
3 ~~grades 5 through 10)~~), to ascertain which, if any, of these children  
4 have defects requiring corrective treatment.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.210.190 and 1990 c 33 s 202 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 As used in RCW 28A.210.180 through 28A.210.250, the following terms  
8 have the meanings indicated.

9 (1) "Superintendent" means the superintendent of public instruction  
10 of public schools in the state, or the superintendent's designee.

11 (2) "Pupil" means a student enrolled in the public school system in  
12 the state.

13 (3) "Scoliosis" includes idiopathic scoliosis and kyphosis.

14 (4) "Screening" means an examination to be performed (~~(on all~~  
15 ~~pupils in grades 5 through 10)~~) for the purpose of detecting the  
16 condition known as scoliosis(~~(, except as provided in RCW~~  
17 ~~28A.210.230)~~).

18 (5) "Public schools" means the common schools referred to in  
19 Article IX of the state Constitution and those schools and institutions  
20 of learning having a curriculum below the college or university level  
21 as now or may be established by law and maintained at public expense.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.210.200 and 1990 c 33 s 203 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 The superintendent shall provide for and require the (~~(yearly)~~)  
25 examination of (~~(all)~~) children attending public schools (~~(in grades 5~~  
26 ~~through 10, except as provided in RCW 28A.210.230,)~~) at least three  
27 times between grades four and eleven in accordance with procedures and  
28 standards adopted by rule of the state board of health in cooperation

1 with the superintendent of public instruction and the department of  
2 health. The examination shall be made by a school physician, school  
3 nurse, qualified licensed health practitioner, or physical education  
4 instructor or by other school personnel. Proper training of the  
5 personnel in the screening process for scoliosis shall be provided by  
6 the superintendent.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.210.230 and 1990 c 33 s 206 &  
8 1985 c 216 s 6 are each repealed.