

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1951

Chapter 379, Laws of 2005

59th Legislature
2005 Regular Session

PUBLIC SCHOOLS--VISION TESTING

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/24/05

Passed by the House April 18, 2005
Yeas 94 Nays 1

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 6, 2005
Yeas 48 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved May 10, 2005.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1951** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 10, 2005 - 9:59 a.m.

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1951

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Talcott, Haler, Morrell, Campbell, O'Brien, Hankins, Kagi and McDermott)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to vision exams for school-aged children; and
2 creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Vision is one of the primary senses used in the early learning
6 process;

7 (2) Vision problems affecting preschool and school-age children can
8 impact a child's ability to learn;

9 (3) Economically disadvantaged children have less access to health
10 care and therefore, may have a proportionally greater likelihood of
11 having undiagnosed vision problems that may affect their ability to
12 learn;

13 (4) Vision problems in young children can be misinterpreted as
14 neurodevelopmental delay or as learning disabilities; and

15 (5) Current screening for visual acuity at distance is insufficient
16 to detect all vision defects.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of health shall convene

1 a work group to reevaluate visual screening of children in public
2 schools and make any recommendations regarding changes to the rules.
3 In developing its recommendations, the work group shall, at a minimum:

4 (a) Consider the benefits of complete eye exams on public school
5 children;

6 (b) Consider when visual screening, complete eye exams, or both
7 should take place in preschool or kindergarten through high school in
8 order to ensure children are best prepared for the learning
9 environment; and

10 (c) Consider what screening techniques would be appropriate in a
11 school setting.

12 (2) In developing the recommendations, the department of health
13 shall consult with the office of the superintendent of public
14 instruction, the state board of health, the optometric physicians of
15 Washington, and the Washington academy of eye physicians and surgeons.

16 (3) The work group shall make a preliminary report to the
17 legislature and the state board of health by December 1, 2005. The
18 work group shall make final recommendations to the legislature and to
19 the state board of health by December 1, 2006.

20 (4) If specific funding for this act is not referenced by bill or
21 chapter number in the biennial omnibus appropriations act by June 30,
22 2005, this act is null and void.

Passed by the House April 18, 2005.
Passed by the Senate April 6, 2005.
Approved by the Governor May 10, 2005.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 10, 2005.