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SENATE BILL 6245

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Senators Litzow, Hill, Fain, Rolfes, McAuliffe, and Mullet

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to visual screening in schools; and amending RCW  
2 28A.210.020.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.210.020 and 2009 c 556 s 18 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            Every board of school directors shall have the power, and it  
7 shall be its duty to provide for and require screening for the visual  
8 and auditory acuity of all children attending schools in their  
9 districts to ascertain which if any of such children have defects  
10 sufficient to retard them in their studies. Visual screening shall  
11 include both distance and near vision screening. Auditory and visual  
12 screening shall be made in accordance with procedures and standards  
13 adopted by rule (~~or regulation~~) of the state board of health. Prior  
14 to the adoption or revision of such rules (~~or regulations~~) the  
15 state board of health shall seek the recommendations of the  
16 superintendent of public instruction regarding the administration of  
17 visual and auditory screening and the qualifications of persons  
18 competent to administer such screening. Persons performing visual  
19 screening may include, but are not limited to, ophthalmologists,  
20 optometrists, or opticians who donate their professional services to  
21 schools or school districts. If a vision professional who donates his

1 or her services identifies a vision defect sufficient to affect a  
2 student's learning, the vision professional must notify the school  
3 nurse and/or the school principal in writing and may not contact the  
4 student's parents or guardians directly. A school official shall  
5 inform parents or guardians of students in writing that a visual  
6 examination was recommended, but may not communicate the name or  
7 contact information of the vision professional conducting the  
8 screening.

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