



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 534

LCO No. 3069

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT REQUIRING EYE EXAMINATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) Each local or regional board of education or
2 similar body governing a nonpublic school shall require each child to
3 have an eye examination by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist
4 before enrolling in an elementary school under its jurisdiction. The
5 parent or guardian of each child shall receive prior written notice and
6 shall have a reasonable opportunity to be present at such examination
7 or the parent or guardian may provide for such examination. A local or
8 regional board of education may deny continued attendance in a
9 public elementary school to any child who fails to obtain the eye
10 examination required under this section.

11 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10-206 of the general statutes is
12 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

13 (b) Each local or regional board of education shall require each child
14 to have a health assessment prior to public school enrollment. The
15 assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall

16 include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight and blood
17 pressure; (2) an updating of immunizations as required under section
18 10-204a, provided a registered nurse may only update said
19 immunizations pursuant to a written order by a physician or physician
20 assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice
21 registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378; (3) vision, except for
22 a child enrolling in elementary school, hearing, speech and gross
23 dental screenings; and (4) such other information, including health and
24 developmental history, as the physician feels is necessary and
25 appropriate. The assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis,
26 sickle cell anemia or Cooley's anemia and tests for lead levels in the
27 blood where the local or regional board of education determines after
28 consultation with the school medical advisor and the local health
29 department, or in the case of a regional board of education, each local
30 health department, that such tests are necessary, provided a registered
31 nurse may only perform said tests pursuant to the written order of a
32 physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or
33 an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter
34 378.

35 Sec. 3. Section 10-206a of the general statutes is repealed and the
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

37 Each local or regional board of education shall provide for health
38 assessments pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-206 and an eye
39 examination pursuant to section 1 of this act without charge to all
40 pupils whose parents or guardians meet the eligibility requirements
41 for free and reduced price meals under the National School Lunch
42 Program or for free milk under the special milk program. To meet its
43 obligations pursuant to this section, a board of education may utilize
44 existing community resources and services.

45 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure that all children have the benefit of an eye examination prior to enrolling in elementary school.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. GAFFEY, 13th