

By: Senator(s) Caughman

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2852

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-87, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 RECOMMEND A COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMINATION FOR ALL STUDENTS PRIOR
3 TO ENTERING OR ENROLLING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A PUBLIC, PRIVATE
4 OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOL; TO PROVIDE STANDARDS FOR REQUIRED EYE
5 EXAMINATIONS FOR THIS ACT; TO DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
6 EDUCATION WITH INPUT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI VISION FOUNDATION TO
7 DEVELOP AND ISSUE REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS OF PROGRAM;
8 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-87, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 37-3-87. (1) This section shall be known and may be cited
13 as the "Mississippi Vision for Better Learning Program."

14 (2) Beginning July 1, 2018, prior to a student entering or
15 enrolling for the first time in a Mississippi public, private or
16 parochial school approved and accredited by the State Board of
17 Education, should have a comprehensive eye examination performed
18 by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Before the end of the first
19 semester of the start of the school year, the parent or guardian
20 of each student shall present to the appropriate school personnel
21 evidence that the student passed an eye examination within the



previous six (6) months or a waiver by the parent or guardian of
each student opting out of the eye examination. The State
Department of Education, with the advice of the Mississippi Vision
Foundation, on or before July 1, 2018, shall promulgate rules
establishing the criteria for meeting the requirements of this
comprehensive eye examination program which shall include, but not
be limited to, the following:

(a) A comprehensive eye examination shall include
measurement of visual acuity; ocular alignment and motility; depth
perception-stereopsis; fusion; slit lamp; examination of the
anterior and posterior segment and pupils; and cycloplegic
refraction and dilated fundus examination when deemed appropriate
by the examiner.

(b) Any eye doctor who conducts a comprehensive eye
examination of a student given in accordance with the provisions
of this section shall forward a written report of the results of
the examination to the parent or guardian of such student and the
student's primary health care provider. It shall be the
responsibility of the parent or guardian to forward a copy of the
report to school health personnel. The report shall include, but
not be limited to, the following:

(i) Date of report;
(ii) Name, address and date of birth of the
student;
(iii) Name of the student's school;



47 (iv) Type of examination;
48 (v) A summary of significant findings, including
49 diagnoses, medication used, duration of action of medication,
50 treatment, prognosis, whether or not a return visit is recommended
51 and if so, when;
52 (vi) Recommended educational adjustments for the
53 child, if any, which may include: preferential seating in the
54 classroom, eyeglasses for full-time use in school, eyeglasses for
55 part-time use in school, sight-saving eyeglasses or any other
56 recommendations;
57 (vii) Name, address and signature of the examiner.
58 (c) Enforcement of the provisions of this subsection
59 (2) shall be performed by the local school superintendent or his
60 designee, the headmaster of the private or parochial school, or
61 his designee, or the director of the kindergarten program, as
62 appropriate.
63 (* * *3) In addition to the comprehensive eye examination
64 required under subsection (2), the State Department of Education
65 is hereby authorized and empowered to establish a student
66 vision-screening program to make eye-screening services available
67 to students in Grades K-12 in the public schools in order to
68 detect vision problems which can lead to academic problems. Such
69 eye-screening service shall be based on a process that is
70 screening in nature, and not diagnostic, which is intended to
71 identify with a reasonably high probability, students with a wide



72 range of eye problems who should seek the services of an eye care
73 professional for examination, diagnosis and corrective
74 recommendation. Each school shall be provided with a list of the
75 students screened, and their results. Statistical summaries of
76 the screening results shall be provided to each school, and
77 composite statistics by school system, county or district shall be
78 provided to the State Department of Education. The State
79 Department of Education may contract with any legal entity to
80 administer the student vision-screening program on the school
81 district level, and such contract shall be let on a competitive
82 basis. State funding for said program shall only be available
83 subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

84 (* * *4) The school board of any local school district
85 shall cooperate with the State Department of Education and any
86 entity under contract with the departments to implement the
87 student eye examination or vision-screening programs established
88 under this section.

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90 (5) Any additional costs for student eye examinations that
91 are not covered by existing insurance or public assistance
92 programs shall be managed by the Mississippi Vision Foundation.

93 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
94 and after its passage.

