

By: Representatives Roberson, Dortch,
Aguirre, Corley, Evans (91st), Scoggin,
Hopkins, Dixon, Sykes, White, Willis, Hines

To: Education; Public Health
and Human Services

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1322

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-87, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO RECOMMEND CHILDREN
3 ENTERING FIRST GRADE TO HAVE A FACE-TO-FACE COMPREHENSIVE EYE
4 EXAMINATION IF THE CHILD'S INITIAL EYE SCREENING INDICATES THE
5 NEED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

9 37-3-87. (1) This section shall be known and may be cited
10 as the "Mississippi Better Sight for Better Learning Program."

11 (2) The State Board of Education shall recommend a child
12 entering first grade, whose eye screening indicates a need to have
13 a face-to-face comprehensive eye examination, to be completed by
14 an optometrist or ophthalmologist by January 1 of the child's
15 first grade year. A principal, director or other person in charge
16 of a public school shall collect from the child's parent or legal
17 guardian, evidence of the child's face-to-face comprehensive eye
18 examination, as provided by regulation of the State Board of
19 Education, or a signed request by the parent or legal guardian of



20 each student opting out of the face-to-face comprehensive eye
21 examination. A face-to-face comprehensive eye examination that
22 was performed before a child's initial enrollment in a public
23 school shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement of this section.
24 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations
25 under the authority provided in this section to implement the
26 provisions of this section.

27 (* * *3) The State Department of Education is hereby
28 authorized and empowered to establish a student vision screening
29 program to make eye screening services available to students in
30 Grades K-12 in the public schools in order to detect vision
31 problems which can lead to academic problems. Such eye screening
32 service shall be based on a process that is screening in nature,
33 and not diagnostic, which is intended to identify with a
34 reasonably high probability, students with a wide range of eye
35 problems who should seek the services of an eye care professional
36 for examination, diagnosis and corrective recommendation. Such
37 eye screening service shall provide each student screened with a
38 report of the student's screening results to be taken home. Each
39 school shall be provided with a list of the students screened, and
40 their results. Statistical summaries of the screening results
41 shall be provided to each school, and composite statistics by
42 school system, county or district shall be provided to the State
43 Department of Education. The State Department of Education may
44 contract with any legal entity to administer the student vision



45 screening program on the school district level, and such contract
46 shall be let on a competitive basis. State funding for the
47 program shall only be available subject to appropriation by the
48 Legislature.

49 (* * *4) The school board of any local school district
50 shall cooperate with the State Department of Education and any
51 entity under contract with the department to implement the student
52 face-to-face comprehensive eye examination or vision screening
53 programs established under this section.

54 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after July 1, 2019.

