

By: Representatives Warren, Scott (17th)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 640

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-87, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
3 STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO DEVELOP A SCREENING INSTRUMENT FOR
4 THE STUDENT VISION SCREENING PROGRAM, AND TO DELETE THE
5 REQUIREMENT THAT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE VISION SCREENING
6 PROGRAM APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND HOUSE
7 SPEAKER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

11 37-3-87. (1) The State Department of Education is
12 * * * authorized and empowered to establish a student vision
13 screening program to make eye screening services available to
14 students in Grades K-12 in the public schools in order to detect
15 vision problems which can lead to academic problems. Such eye
16 screening service shall be based on a process that is screening in
17 nature, and not diagnostic, which is intended to identify with a
18 reasonably high probability, students with a wide range of eye
19 problems who should seek the services of an eye care professional
20 for examination, diagnosis and corrective recommendation. Such
21 eye screening service shall provide each student screened with a
22 report of the student's screening results to be taken home. Each
23 school shall be provided with a list of the students screened, and
24 their results. Statistical summaries of the screening results
25 shall be provided to each school, and composite statistics by
26 school system, county or district shall be provided to the State
27 Department of Education. The State Department of Education may
28 contract with any legal entity to administer the student vision
29 screening program on the school district level, and such contract



30 shall be let on a competitive basis. State funding for the
31 program shall only be available subject to appropriation by the
32 Legislature.

33 (2) The school board of any local school district shall
34 cooperate with the State Department of Education and any entity
35 under contract with the department to implement the student vision
36 screening program established under this section.

37 (3) The State Department of Education, in conjunction with
38 the State Department of Health, shall develop or select an
39 appropriate screening instrument to be used in the student vision
40 screening program.

41 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
42 and after July 1, 2002.

