

Department of Planning and Budget

2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1408

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Ware

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Student vision screenings; requirements for certain students.

5. Summary: Requires (i) the principal of each public elementary school to cause the vision of students in kindergarten and grade two or grade three to be screened by a qualified nonprofit vision health organization that uses a digital photoscreening method pursuant to a comprehensive vision program, unless such students are admitted for the first time to a public elementary school and have been so tested as part of the comprehensive physical examination required by law or the parents or guardians of such students object on religious grounds and the students show no obvious evidence of any defect or disease of the eyes, and (ii) the principal of each public middle school and high school to cause the vision of students in grade seven and grade 10 to be screened by a qualified nonprofit vision health organization that uses a digital photoscreening method pursuant to a comprehensive vision program, unless the parents or guardians of such students object on religious grounds and the students show no obvious evidence of any defect or disease of the eyes. The bill requires the scheduling of such vision screenings to be completed no later than the sixtieth administrative working day of the school year. The bill defines "qualified nonprofit vision health organization" and "comprehensive vision program." Under current law, the timing and frequency of such vision screenings is determined by the Board of Education pursuant to regulations, and the method and provider of such vision screenings is determined by the local school board.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact resulting from the provisions of this bill. Vision screenings of public school students are conducted by school nurses within the local school divisions, who are partially funded by the state through the Standards of Quality. Any local contracts with outside providers for vision screening would generate additional costs for the local school divisions. As written, HB 1408 does not provide a funding mechanism for this initiative. The additional costs from HB 1408 would be borne entirely by local school divisions.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None