

HB 1269 -- Vision Exams for School Children

Sponsor: Jetton

Beginning July 1, 2007, this bill requires children enrolling in kindergarten or first grade in a public school to receive a vision examination and submit the results to the school no later than January 1 following their enrollment. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in conjunction with the Department of Health and Senior Services will maintain a list of sources for referral through which free or reduced-cost care may be obtained. The list will be distributed to superintendents, school nurses, and parent organizations each year before school begins. The bill specifies the elements of the exam and the equipment necessary to conduct the exam. Exam findings must be retained six years. Exemption from exams on religious grounds may be obtained upon written request to the appropriate school administrator. Moneys up to \$99,000 per year may be appropriated from the Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment Program Fund to meet the costs of vision exams not covered by existing public health insurance.