

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1917

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DOLL.

3817H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 167, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to hearing screenings in schools.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 167, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 167.192, to read as follows:

**167.192. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

(1) "Parent", a student's parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of the student;

(2) "Student", a child who is enrolled for the first time in either kindergarten or grade one.

2. For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years, each public, private, parochial, or parish school shall conduct a hearing screening for each student as provided in this section.

3. (1) Before August first of the school year in which a student is required to receive a hearing screening under this section, the school board shall provide the student's parent with information about the school district's hearing screening program.

(2) The hearing screening shall occur before November first of the school year in which the hearing screening is required to occur under this section.

(3) The school board may:

(a) Conduct any element of the hearing screening program;

(b) Contract with any individual or governmental entity to provide any element of the hearing screening program;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           (c) Request the student's parent to obtain any element of the hearing screening  
19 program from a provider selected by the parent; or

20           (d) Provide the hearing screening by any combination of the methods described  
21 in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subdivision.

22           (4) If the board itself conducts the hearing screening or contracts for the hearing  
23 screening, the hearing screening shall be conducted as required under state law.

24           (5) (a) If the school board chooses to request the student's parent to obtain any  
25 element of the hearing screening program, the school board shall provide a list of  
26 providers to the student's parent with information about hearing screening services  
27 available in the community to parents who cannot afford such services.

28           (b) A parent requested to obtain any element of the hearing screening program  
29 may sign a written statement indicating that the parent declines the hearing screening  
30 for the parent's student. Upon receiving the written request, the school board shall  
31 refrain from conducting the hearing screening on the student.

32           4. If the results of the hearing screening reveal a possible need for special  
33 educational services, the school board shall conduct further assessment as required  
34 under state law.

35           5. A student shall be exempt from the hearing screening required under this  
36 section if the student's parent presents to the school board a certificate or similar  
37 written notice that the student has been examined by a regularly licensed physician  
38 during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of the hearing screening  
39 required under this section.

40           6. The department of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with  
41 the department of health and senior services, shall develop a model hearing screening  
42 program that satisfies all requirements of this section. A school district may adopt or  
43 adapt such model policy to conduct the hearing screenings required under this section.

44           7. The department of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with  
45 the department of health and senior services, may promulgate all necessary rules and  
46 regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that  
47 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this  
48 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the  
49 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter  
50 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly  
51 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul

52 a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority  
53 and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2024, shall be invalid and void.

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