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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Senate Committee on Education  
From: Nick Myers, Assistant Revisor of Statutes  
Date: March 14, 2019  
Subject: House Bill 2346 as amended by House Committee

HB 2346 would make several changes to the statutes regarding school administered vision screenings.

Current law provides that the governing body of any school must provide each student with a basic vision screening at least once every two years. The school is required to provide the results of the screening to the student's parents and may recommend a vision examination by a qualified health professional based on such results. Current law also provides that students who are not achieving mastery of basic reading, writing and mathematics skills shall be encouraged to obtain a vision examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

HB 2346 would require that basic vision screenings be provided annually for children with disabilities aged three through five who are receiving special education and related services through programs funded through IDEA part B. Additionally, the bill would require that basic vision screenings be provided at least once each school year for students in grades K-3, 5, 7 and 10, and to any student who enrolls in a school within the first year of such admission.

Under HB 2346, such vision screening requirements would apply to both public schools and accredited nonpublic schools. Each accredited nonpublic school would be required to provide basic vision screenings unless a parent requests the school district in which the student resides to provide the vision screening. If such request is made, the school district in which the student resides would be required to provide the vision screening.

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HB 2346 would require that vision screenings be performed by a vision screener such as a school nurse, a nurse's designee or any other person who is trained to administer vision screening tests to students in the state. Vision screeners would be required to follow the most recent state vision screening guidelines for performing vision screening.

The bill would establish the Kansas Children's Vision Health and School Readiness Commission to ensure the implementation of the changes in HB 2346. Members of the commission would be appointed by the State Board of Education as follows:

1. One optometrist;
2. One ophthalmologist;
3. One representative of a health organization dedicated to preventing blindness;
4. One representative of the Department of Education;
5. One representative of the Department of Health and Environment;
6. One school nurse;
7. One public health nurse; and
8. One school administrator.

The commission's statutory duties would be to: (1) Oversee the revision of state vision screening requirements and guidelines no fewer than once every seven years; (2) provide standardized vision screening referral letters and eye professional examination reports; (3) identify state resources to offer free or low-cost eye exams for students who are unable to afford such examinations; and (4) establish a system to collect data concerning vision screening results and outcomes of referrals and issue an annual report to the secretary of KDHE and the commissioner of education.