

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Molly Baumgardner, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 445B-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Baumgardner:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 62 by Senate Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 62 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 62 would establish the Kansas Children's Vision Health and School Readiness Commission and would amend the standards for school-administered vision screenings for students.

The Commission would be appointed by the State Board of Education and would comprise one optometrist; one ophthalmologist; one representative of a health organization dedicated to preventing blindness; one representative of the Department of Education; one representative of the Department of Health and Environment; one school nurse; one public nurse; and one school administrator. Members of the Commission would not be eligible for meeting expense reimbursement.

The duties of the Commission would include:

1. Overseeing the revision of the state vision screening requirements no fewer than once every seven years;
2. Providing standardized vision screen referral letters and eye professional examination reports;
3. Identifying state resources that assist in providing opportunities for free or low-cost eye exams for students who fail vision screenings and are unable to afford an examination; and
4. Establishing a system to collect data from school health personnel concerning the results of original screenings and referral outcomes, as well as issuing an annual report to the Secretary of Health and Environment and the Commissioner of Education.

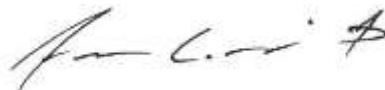
In addition, the bill would amend standards for school-administered vision screenings. The bill would require annual basic vision screenings to be provided without charge for every child:

1. Enrolled in special education and related service programs, ages three to five;
2. Enrolled in kindergarten and in grades one through three, five, seven and ten in all accredited schools; and
3. Within the first year of admission for any student who enrolls in a school district or an accredited nonpublic school.

Each student enrolled in a school district would be provided a basic vision screening by the board of education of the student's enrolled school. Each student enrolled in an accredited nonpublic school would be provided a basic vision screening by either the accredited nonpublic school that the student attends or by the board of education of the school district in which the student resides, if requested by the parent or guardian. The bill would outline the requirements of the vision screening, as well as any referrals resulting from the screening.

According to the Department of Education, the enactment of SB 62 would not change state aid payments received by school districts. Because the bill would prohibit members of the Commission from reimbursement for meeting expenses, the Department would not incur any expense for the Commission. Also, any additional costs incurred by either the school districts or the accredited nonpublic schools from the enactment of SB 62 would be the responsibility of the school district or the accredited nonpublic school.

Sincerely,



Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Craig Neuenswander, Education