



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**HEALTH SCREENING FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN**

100-1-59

Mich State Law Library

House Bill 4531

Sponsor: Rep. Vincent J. Porreca

Committee: Public Health

Complete to 4-24-89

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4531 AS INTRODUCED 4-5-89**

The bill would amend the Public Health Code, adding a new part (Part 94, Comprehensive Health Screening) to require that before certain children were newly admitted into school, their parents or guardian present a completed comprehensive health screening summary form (to be developed by the Department of Public Health in cooperation with the Department of Education) to public school officials which indicated that the child had had a comprehensive health screening within the immediately preceding year.

More specifically, the bill would apply to parents, guardians, or people acting in place of a parent (a "person in loco parentis") who were applying to have a child admitted into kindergarten, sixth grade, or ninth grade, or a child who was transferring from an out-of-state school into any grade. The purpose of the comprehensive health screening would be to identify health problems in children as early as possible so as to safeguard their health and allow them to participate in school as fully as possible. The bill would exempt children from these requirements if their parents (or guardian) presented a written statement to the child's school principal that said such a screening violated the parent's personal beliefs.

Comprehensive health screening would have to be done by a licensed health professional who was qualified and properly trained to do such a screening and would have to include, at a minimum, an assessment of:

- \* the health history of the child and of his or her family;
- \* the child's immunization, nutrition, and general health status;
- \* the child's blood pressure, blood lead levels, height, weight, and hearing, vision, urine, anemia, and sickle cell status;
- \* the child's physical and dental status (as determined by physical inspection); and,
- \* if the child were less than six years old, his or her developmental status (including any "significant deviation" in his or her personal/social, fine motor/adaptive, language, or gross motor realms).

After a comprehensive health screening, the health professional who did the screening would be required to meet with the child's parents (or guardian) to explain the results of the screening, refer the child for other appropriate health professionals as necessary, and fill out and give to the child's parents an official summary form.

Each child's comprehensive health screening summary form would be kept on file at his or her public school, and would be transferred with the child should the child change to another school in the state. The summary form would be released only to the school principal, a school nurse, or any of the child's teachers.

In addition to being required to develop the summary form, the Department of Public Health would be allowed to:

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- \* train health professionals who conduct comprehensive health screenings;
- \* provide educational materials to help such screening programs;
- \* assure that the requirements of the comprehensive health screenings met the minimum requirements of the Medicaid early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment program administered by the state Department of Social Services; and
- \* promulgate any administrative rules necessary to implement the bill.

MCL 333.1101 et al.