

SCHOOL HEALTH SCREENINGS

House Bill 4031

Sponsor: Rep. Vincent Joe Porreca

Committee: Public Health

Complete to 2-4-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4031 AS INTRODUCED 1-31-91

The bill would amend the Public Health Code, adding a new part (Part 94, Comprehensive Health Screening), to require comprehensive health screenings for children entering kindergarten, the sixth or ninth grades, or children transferring from another state into any grade in Michigan schools. Children who had not undergone health screenings before entering these grades would not be allowed to enroll in school unless their parents filed statements of exemption with the school principal. (Exemptions would be permitted if a written statement was given to the school principal which said that the health screening violated the personal beliefs of the parent or guardian.) The screening would be to identify health problems in children as early as possible "in order to safeguard the health of minors and to allow minors to participate in school as fully as possible."

Screenings would have to be done by licensed health professionals qualified and trained to do such screenings. A comprehensive health screening would have to include at least the following:

- * the child's health history (and that of his or her family);
- * the child's immunization, nutrition, sickle cell, physical, dental, and general health status;
- * the child's blood pressure, blood lead, hearing, vision, urine, height, and weight;
- * the developmental status (including any "significant deviation" in the "personal/social, fine motor/adaptive, language, or gross motor realms") of children under six years of age; and
- * any other information the department might require by administrative rule.

The health professional who conducted a screening would be required to meet with the child's parents or guardian to explain its results, refer the child to other health professionals as necessary, record the results of the screening on a summary form provided by the Department of Public Health and give a copy to the child's parents or guardians.

Public schools would be required to keep the summary forms of each of their students, and transfer such forms when students transferred to other public schools in Michigan. The summary forms would be available only to school principals, school nurses, and teachers of the student in question.

The Department of Public Health, in addition to having to develop the summary form (in cooperation with the Department of Education), would be allowed to:

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

MCL 333.9401 et al.