

Regular Session, 2005

HOUSE BILL NO. 329

BY REPRESENTATIVE WADDELL

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENTS: Requires parents or others having control of a child entering kindergarten to submit certification that the child has been administered a vision screening

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:391.11(F) and (G), relative to vision screening for children entering
3 kindergarten; to require the parent, tutor, or other person having control or charge of
4 a child entering kindergarten for the first time to submit certification that the child
5 has been administered a vision screening conducted by certain persons; to provide
6 for rules adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to
7 provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:391.11(F) and (G) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §391.11. School readiness screening; kindergarten instrument selection;
11 administration; reporting

12 * * *

13 F. The provisions of Subsections A and C of this Section, as such provisions
14 relate to required vision screening for every child entering kindergarten for the first
15 time, shall be applicable through the 2005-2006 school year.

16 G. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year and thereafter, when a child
17 enters kindergarten for the first time, the child's parent, tutor, or other person having
18 control or charge of the child shall submit to the appropriate school personnel
19 certification that the child has been administered a vision screening conducted by
20 persons trained in vision screening techniques. The State Board of Elementary and

- 1 Secondary Education may adopt rules to provide for the implementation of this
2 Subsection.
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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Waddell

HB No. 329

Abstract: Requires, beginning with the 2006-2007 school year and thereafter, that the parent, tutor, or person having control or charge of a child entering kindergarten for the first time shall submit to the appropriate school personnel certification that the child has been administered a vision screening conducted by persons trained in vision screening techniques.

Present law (R.S. 17:391.11(A) and (C)) requires that each city and parish school system shall require that every child entering kindergarten for the first time be given a nationally recognized readiness screening to be conducted at the beginning of the school year. Specifies that the results of this screening shall be used in placement and for planning instruction and provides that the parent or guardian of each child shall be advised of the nature of the child's level of readiness.

Present law (R.S. 17:391.11(B)) requires the state Dept. of Education to review the available nationally recognized individually administered readiness tests and recommend to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) tests acceptable for use as provided in present law. Specifies that such tests shall include the capacity to measure a student's proficiency in vision and hearing using the present vision and hearing screening programs. Authorizes school boards to select one of the tests to be used in the system and provides that the test selected and policies adopted for promotion to or enrollment in first grade shall be promulgated by each system in its pupil progression plan and curriculum guides.

Present law (R.S. 17:391.11(D) and (E)) requires each school system to report the screening results by school on an annual basis by Dec. 1 to the state Dept. of Education. Provides that the state shall pay the cost of the screening materials and reporting required pursuant to present law.

Proposed law retains present law but specifies that the present law provisions (R.S. 17:391.11(A) and (C)), as such provisions relate to required vision screening for every child entering kindergarten for the first time, shall be applicable through the 2005-2006 school year.

Proposed law adds that beginning with the 2006-2007 school year and thereafter, when a child enters kindergarten for the first time, the child's parent, tutor, or other person having control or charge of the child shall submit to the appropriate school personnel certification that the child has been administered a vision screening conducted by persons trained in vision screening techniques. Provides that BESE may adopt rules to provide for the implementation of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 17:391.11(F) and (G))