

HB 295 -- Vision Examinations for Students

Sponsor: Jetton

Beginning July 1, 2006, every child enrolling in kindergarten or first grade in a public school or a Head Start program in this state must have at least one vision examination by January 1 following their enrollment. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Senior Services, will maintain a list of programs through which free or reduced-cost eye care may be available and provide the list to schools and parent organizations. This bill adds an additional use for the Blindness Education, Screening and Treatment Program Fund to pay the vision examinations of children for whom insurance does not cover the cost of an examination.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will promulgate rules to implement the bill.