

SENATE BILL 600

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8lr3079
CF HB 653

By: **Senators Conway, Della, Dyson, Exum, Frosh, Garagiola, Gladden, Kelley, Middleton, Muse, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Schools – Early Intervention – Hearing and Vision Screenings**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain timeframe for when county boards of education
4 and county health departments are required to provide hearing and vision
5 screenings to certain students; requiring county boards of education and county
6 health departments to provide certain forms; requiring certain parents or
7 guardians to report certain information; and generally relating to the provision
8 of hearing and vision screenings in public schools, private schools, and
9 nonpublic educational facilities.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–404
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Education**

18 7–404.

19 (a) (1) Each county board or county health department shall provide
20 hearing and vision screenings for all students in the public schools.

21 (2) Each county health department shall provide and fund hearing
22 and vision screenings for all students:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) In any private school that has received a certificate of
2 approval under § 2-206 of this article; and

3 (ii) In any nonpublic educational facility in this State approved
4 as a special education facility by the Department.

5 (b) (1) Unless evidence is presented that a student has been tested within
6 the past year, the screenings required under subsection (a) of this section shall be
7 given in the year that a student enters a school system, enters the [fourth, fifth, or
8 sixth] **FIRST** grade, and enters the [ninth] **THIRD** grade.

9 (2) Further screening shall be done in accordance with the bylaws
10 adopted by the State Board.

11 (c) The results of the hearing and vision screenings required by this section
12 shall be:

13 (1) Made a part of the permanent record file of each student;

14 (2) Given to the parents of any student who fails the screenings; and

15 (3) Reported to the county board or the county health department.

16 **(D) ON A FORM PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OR THE COUNTY**
17 **HEALTH DEPARTMENT, A PARENT OR GUARDIAN SHALL REPORT TO THE BOARD**
18 **OR THE DEPARTMENT ON THE RECOMMENDED SERVICES RECEIVED BY A**
19 **STUDENT WHO FAILED THE SCREENINGS.**

20 [(d)] **(E)** The county board or the county health department shall report to
21 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene the results of the hearing and vision
22 screenings and, to the extent practicable, the number of students receiving the
23 recommended services.

24 [(e)] **(F)** In cooperation with the Department of Health and Mental
25 Hygiene, the Department of Education shall adopt standards, rules, and regulations to
26 carry out the provisions of this section.

27 [(f)] **(G)** A student whose parent or guardian objects in writing to hearing
28 and vision screening on the ground that it conflicts with the tenets and practice of a
29 recognized church or religious denomination of which he is an adherent or member
30 may not be required to take these screenings.

31 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
32 **October 1, 2008.**