

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 354—ASSEMBLYWOMEN PARNELL AND SMITH

MARCH 15, 2007

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR WIENER

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the health of pupils.
(BDR 34-850)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included
in Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the health of pupils; requiring that certain physical examinations of children required in schools include an examination of the abnormal growth and development of the children; requiring school nurses to report the aggregate results of such physical examinations to the State Health Officer for statistical purposes and to exclude from the reports any identifying information relating to a particular child; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, physical examinations of children are required in certain grades in school to determine if a child has scoliosis, any visual or auditory problem or any gross physical defect. (NRS 392.420) **Section 1** of this bill requires such examinations also to determine if a child has any abnormal growth or development. **Section 1** also requires school nurses to report the aggregate results of such physical examinations to the State Health Officer for statistical purposes and to exclude from the reports any identifying information relating to a particular child.

Section 2 of this bill makes an appropriation of \$75,000 to the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services for contracting with the Nevada Public Health Foundation to convene at least two statewide meetings with representatives of all health authorities and local health officers in this State to identify the health-related issues, needs and priorities of children in this State, and



14 to provide a written report to the Legislative Committee on Health Care concerning
15 the findings and recommendations resulting from those meetings.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 392.420 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 392.420 1. In each school at which he is responsible for
3 providing nursing services, a school nurse shall plan for and carry
4 out, or supervise qualified health personnel in carrying out, a
5 separate and careful observation and examination of every child
6 who is regularly enrolled in a grade specified by the board of
7 trustees or superintendent of schools of the school district to
8 determine whether the child has scoliosis, any visual or auditory
9 problem, *any abnormal growth or development* or any gross
10 physical defect. The grades in which the observations and
11 examinations must be carried out are as follows:

12 (a) For visual and auditory problems ~~H~~ *and to conduct*
13 *examinations of height and weight*, in at least two grades of the
14 elementary schools, one grade of the middle or junior high schools,
15 and one grade of the high schools; and

16 (b) For scoliosis, in at least one grade of schools below the high
17 schools.

18 ➡ Any person other than a school nurse who performs an
19 observation or examination pursuant to this subsection must be
20 trained by a school nurse to conduct the observation or examination.

21 2. If any child is attending school in a grade above one of the
22 specified grades and has not previously received such an
23 observation and examination, he must be included in the current
24 schedule for observation and examination. Any child who is newly
25 enrolled in the district must be examined for any medical condition
26 for which children in a lower grade are examined.

27 3. A special examination for a possible visual or auditory
28 problem must be provided for any child who:

29 (a) Is enrolled in a special program;

30 (b) Is repeating a grade;

31 (c) Has failed an examination for a visual or auditory problem
32 during the previous school year; or

33 (d) Shows in any other way that he may have such a problem.

34 4. The school authorities shall notify the parents or guardian of
35 any child who is found or believed to have ~~ta~~ *scoliosis, any visual*
36 *or auditory problem, ~~[scoliosis]~~ any abnormal growth or*
37 *development* or any gross physical defect, and shall recommend that
38 appropriate medical attention be secured to correct it.



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5. In any school district in which state, county or district public health services are available or conveniently obtainable, those services may be used to meet the responsibilities assigned under the provisions of this section. The board of trustees of the school district may employ qualified personnel to perform them. Any nursing services provided by such qualified personnel must be performed in compliance with chapter 632 of NRS.

6. Any child must be exempted from the examination if his parents or guardian filed with the teacher a written statement objecting to the examination.

7. Each school nurse shall report the results of the examinations conducted pursuant to this section in each school at which he is responsible for providing nursing services to the State Health Officer in the format prescribed by the State Health Officer. Each such report must include only aggregate information for statistical purposes and exclude any identifying information relating to a particular child. The State Health Officer shall compile all such aggregate information he receives to monitor the health status of children and shall retain the aggregate information.

Sec. 2. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services the sum of \$75,000 for contracting with the Nevada Public Health Foundation to convene at least two statewide meetings with representatives of all health authorities and local health officers in this State to identify the health-related issues, needs and priorities of children in this State, and to provide a written report to the Legislative Committee on Health Care concerning the findings and recommendations resulting from those meetings.

2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2009, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 18, 2009, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 18, 2009.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

