

**SENATE, No. 2804**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 27, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Diegnan and Singleton**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires young children entering public schools or Head Start Programs for first time to have comprehensive eye examination completed.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/27/2018)**

1 AN ACT concerning the vision of certain children and  
2 supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. The State Board of Education shall require a child age 6  
9 and under who is entering a public preschool, public school, or a  
10 Head Start Program for the first time to have a comprehensive eye  
11 examination completed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist by  
12 January 1 of the child's initial year of enrollment in the school or  
13 program.

14 b. A principal, director, or other person in charge of a public  
15 preschool, public school, or Head Start Program shall collect from  
16 the child's parent or guardian evidence of the child's  
17 comprehensive eye examination, as provided by regulation of the  
18 State board.

19 c. A comprehensive eye examination that was performed prior  
20 to a child's initial enrollment in a public preschool, public school,  
21 or Head Start Program shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement of  
22 this section.

23 d. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and  
24 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
25 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions  
26 of this section.

27 e. As used in this section, "comprehensive eye examination"  
28 means an evaluation that includes a child's history, external and  
29 ophthalmoscopic examination, visual acuity, ocular alignment and  
30 motility, refraction, and assessment of accommodation and  
31 binocular vision, performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

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33 2. This act shall take effect in the first full school year  
34 following the date of enactment.

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37 STATEMENT

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39 This bill directs the State Board of Education to require each  
40 child age 6 and under who is entering a public preschool, public  
41 school, or a Head Start Program for the first time to have a  
42 comprehensive eye examination completed by an optometrist or  
43 ophthalmologist by January 1 of the child's initial year of  
44 enrollment in the school or program. A principal, director or other  
45 person in charge of a public preschool, public school, or Head Start  
46 Program must collect from the child's parent or guardian evidence  
47 of the child's comprehensive eye examination, as provided by  
48 regulation of the State board. The bill provides that a child who has

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- 1 previously had a comprehensive eye exam will not be required to
- 2 undergo an additional eye examination upon enrollment in a public
- 3 preschool, public school, or Head Start Program.