

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1553

4
5 By: Representatives Cleveland, Lewellen, J. Johnson, S. Prater, Rosenbaum, Fite, Goss, Dobbins, Bolin,
6 Haak

7 By: Senators Steele, Faris, Critcher, B. Johnson, Malone, Horn

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For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ARKANSAS COMMISSION TO
12 STUDY THE ADEQUACY OF EYE HEALTH, VISION CARE,
13 VISION SCREENING, AND THE EFFECTS OF INADEQUATE
14 VISION ON THE EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF CHILDREN
15 IN THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL SYSTEMS; AND FOR OTHER
16 PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

19 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ARKANSAS
20 COMMISSION FOR ADEQUATE EYE HEALTH AND
21 VISION CARE NEEDS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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SECTION 1. Intent.

27 (a) The General Assembly recognizes:

28 (1) The importance of adequate eye and vision care for school
29 age children as an important component to maximizing their educational
30 opportunities and classroom performance; and

31 (2) The need for a study to be conducted to evaluate eye and
32 vision care in school age children and to develop a strategic statewide plan
33 regarding the needs and solutions of eye and vision problems of school age
34 children.

35 (b) Therefore, the purposes of this act are to create a commission to
36 conduct such a study and to make findings and recommendations to the General



1 Assembly and the Governor.

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3 SECTION 2. Arkansas Commission on Eye and Vision Care of School Age
4 Children.

5 (a)(1) There is established the Arkansas Commission on Eye and Vision
6 Care of School Age Children to be composed of fifteen (15) members.

7 (2) The following members shall be appointed by the Governor:

8 (A) Two (2) optometrists;

9 (B) Two (2) ophthalmologists;

10 (C) One (1) pediatrician;

11 (D) One (1) school nurse who is currently working in a
12 public elementary school in this state;

13 (E) One (1) person currently working as a principal in a
14 public elementary school in this state; and

15 (F) One (1) person currently working as a classroom
16 teacher in a public elementary school in this state.

17 (3) The following members shall be appointed by the Speaker of
18 the House of Representatives:

19 (A) One (1) optometrist; and

20 (B) One (1) principal of a public elementary school.

21 (4) The following members shall be appointed by the President
22 Pro Tempore of the Senate:

23 (A) One (1) optometrist; and

24 (B) One (1) teacher in a public elementary school.

25 (5) The chairperson of the House Committee on Public Health,
26 Welfare, and Labor shall appoint one (1) member who has a child in a public
27 school in this state.

28 (6) The chairperson of the Senate Committee on Public Health,
29 Welfare, and Labor shall appoint one (1) member who has a child in a public
30 school in this state.

31 (7) The optometrist serving on the State Board of Health shall
32 also be a member of the board and shall serve as a liaison to the Department
33 of Health.

34 (b)(1) The Governor shall designate one (1) of the optometrist
35 appointees to serve as chairperson of the commission.

36 (2) The members of the commission shall select from their

1 membership a secretary and a treasurer.

2 (c) The first meeting shall be held within thirty (30) days of the
3 appointment of the members by the Governor, and shall be called by the
4 chairperson.

5 (d)(1) A majority of the membership of the commission shall constitute
6 a quorum.

7 (2) A majority vote of those members present shall be required
8 for any action of the commission.

9 (e) Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in
10 the same manner as is provided in this section for initial appointments.

11 (f) To the extent that moneys are made available for that purpose, the
12 members of the commission may receive expense reimbursement in accordance
13 with Arkansas Code § 25-16-902.

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15 SECTION 3. Duties.

16 (a) The commission shall:

17 (1) Study the eye and vision needs of the school age children of
18 Arkansas;

19 (2) Study and evaluate vision screening programs in the schools,
20 and their effectiveness;

21 (3) Study and evaluate whether children are receiving adequate
22 eye and vision care, and correction of vision problems;

23 (4) Study the effects of inadequate vision on the performance of
24 children in the classroom; and

25 (5) Develop a strategic statewide plan to ensure adequate eye
26 and vision care of school age children.

27 (b) By November 1, 2004, the commission shall report its findings and
28 strategic plan for meeting the vision needs of school age children to the
29 Governor, the Legislative Council, and the House and Senate Interim
30 Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor.

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32 SECTION 4. Funding.

33 (a)(1) The commission's funding shall be from grants, donations, and
34 any other funds that may be made available through appropriations by the
35 General Assembly.

36 (2) Moneys received by the commission shall be used solely for

1 the support of the functions of the commission.

2 (b)(1) Grants and donations received by the commission shall be cash
3 funds and shall be deposited in an interest bearing account in a financial
4 institution located in this state but shall be subject to appropriation by
5 the General Assembly.

6 (2) Any moneys received from grantors and donors that are not
7 expended by the commission shall be returned to the grantors and donors in
8 proportion that each bears to the total of all grants and donations received
9 by the commission.

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11 SECTION 5. The commission shall expire on June 30, 2005.
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