

FISCAL NOTE

SB 1142 - HB 1463

March 14, 2002

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Health, in conjunction with the Department of Education, to establish a scoliosis screening program for public school students ages 10 through 18.

Under the bill, regulations must specify that the Department of Education will not be required to hire additional personnel to implement the program, but will use public school nurses, other school health personnel, volunteers, and other qualified school employees. The rules will provide, but not be limited, to the following:

- Advance written notice of the time of the scoliosis screening will be given to the parents of the students;
- Parents of the students will be provided with information on the causes, conditions, and effects of scoliosis, prior to the students' screenings;
- Qualifications of personnel authorized to administer screenings;
- Frequency of the screenings;
- The manner in which the schools or their agents conduct the tests;
- The manner in which screening results will be made available to the parent of the student; and
- Notation of the screening and any follow-up activity will be kept with the students' school health records.

The screening program will be incorporated into the student health services of the school nurse program. A parent's request that a child not be screened for religious reasons would be honored except in cases of an epidemic.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant
Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant

Estimate assumes:

- Schools may elect to purchase a meter to measure the degree of scoliosis at a cost of approximately \$30.
- Some schools already have screenings provided by the American Red Cross.
- Notices to parents, other scoliosis information, and screening results will be sent in conjunction with other school notices.
- Schools will use school nurses or other school health personnel to conduct the screenings.
- The Department of Health currently has staff who could assist with developing rules and regulations; with developing materials; and training school personnel or others to perform the screening.
- Any cost associated with additional record keeping by the Department of Education, the Department of Health and the LEAs is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

James A. Davenport, Executive Director