

SENATE BILL 604

J1, F1, C3

7lr2883
CF HB 458

By: **Senators Bates, Eckardt, Ready, and Salling**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Visual Impairments – Requirements for Teacher Training, Student Screening,**
3 **and Maryland Medical Assistance Program Coverage**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, on or before a certain date, the Professional Standards and
5 Teacher Education Board to require a certificate holder applying for renewal of a
6 certificate as a teacher to complete a course on understanding and recognizing the
7 symptoms of visual impairments; requiring the Board to approve a course that meets
8 certain criteria; requiring the Board to adopt certain regulations; requiring a vision
9 screening provided to certain students in public schools to include the administration
10 of a computerized screening for visual impairments that includes, at a minimum,
11 certain tests; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to fund and
12 provide to certain county health departments the equipment for a certain required
13 computerized screening for visual impairments; requiring a computerized screening
14 for visual impairments to be given each year to each student who has an
15 individualized education program; requiring the results of a certain computerized
16 screening for visual impairments to be made part of a certain record, given to the
17 parents of certain students, and reported to certain entities; requiring a parent or
18 guardian to report, on a certain form, to certain entities on the recommended services
19 received by a student who may have possible symptoms of a visual impairment;
20 requiring the county board of education or the county health department to report to
21 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene the results of computerized
22 screenings for visual impairments; exempting a student whose parent or guardian
23 objects to a certain vision screening on certain grounds from taking the screening;
24 requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide, beginning on a
25 certain date and subject to a certain limitation and as permitted by federal law,
26 vision rehabilitation and habilitation for certain individuals; and generally relating
27 to teacher training, student screening, and medical coverage for visual impairments.

28 BY adding to
29 Article – Education
30 Section 6–704.2

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
4 Article – Education
5 Section 7–404
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Health – General
10 Section 15–103(a)(1)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Health – General
15 Section 15–103(a)(2)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 **6–704.2.**

22 (A) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2018, THE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE A
23 CERTIFICATE HOLDER APPLYING FOR RENEWAL OF A CERTIFICATE AS A TEACHER
24 TO COMPLETE A COURSE ON UNDERSTANDING AND RECOGNIZING SYMPTOMS OF
25 VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS, INCLUDING VISUAL PROCESSING DISORDERS AND
26 BINOCULAR PROCESSING DISORDERS.

27 (B) THE BOARD SHALL APPROVE A COURSE REQUIRED UNDER THIS
28 SECTION THAT:

29 (1) IS DESIGNED FOR EDUCATORS;

30 (2) HAS BEEN IN USE FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS;

31 (3) IS TAKEN ONLINE AND COMPLIES WITH § 508 OF THE FEDERAL
32 REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973;

33 (4) SATISFIES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS; AND

1 **(5) PROVIDES INFORMATION AND TRAINING ON EDUCATION AND**
2 **CLASSROOM DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES RELATING TO VISUAL PROCESSING**
3 **DISORDERS.**

4 **(C) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS**
5 **SECTION.**

6 7-404.

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

9 **(II) 1. A VISION SCREENING SHALL INCLUDE THE**
10 **ADMINISTRATION OF A COMPUTERIZED SCREENING THAT IS DESIGNED TO DETECT**
11 **POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS.**

12 **2. A COMPUTERIZED SCREENING FOR VISUAL**
13 **IMPAIRMENTS SHALL INCLUDE, AT MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING TESTS:**

14 **A. INTERPUPILLARY DISTANCE;**

15 **B. FIXATION DURATION;**

16 **C. STATIC VISUAL ACUITY, MONOCULAR AND**
17 **BINOCULAR;**

18 **D. VON GRAEFE VERTICAL VERGENCE;**

19 **E. VON GRAEFE HORIZONTAL VERGENCE;**

20 **F. ACCOMMODATION AC/A;**

21 **G. CONVERGENCE;**

22 **H. DIVERGENCE;**

23 **I. SUPRAVERGENCE;**

24 **J. INFRAVERGENCE;**

25 **K. EYE DOMINANCE;**

26 **L. COLOR DEFICIENCY, MONOCULAR AND BINOCULAR;**

1 **M. GRATINGS CONTRAST SENSITIVITY, MONOCULAR AND**
2 **BINOCULAR; AND**

3 **N. FIELD OF VIEW RANGE AND RECOGNITION, 30**
4 **DEGREE.**

5 (2) (I) [Each] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF**
6 **THIS PARAGRAPH, EACH** county health department shall provide and fund hearing and
7 vision screenings for all students:

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

10 [(ii)] 2. In any nonpublic educational facility in this State
11 approved as a special education facility by the Department.

12 **(II) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
13 **SHALL FUND AND PROVIDE TO EACH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT THE**
14 **EQUIPMENT FOR THE COMPUTERIZED SCREENING FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS**
15 **REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

16 (b) (1) (I) [Unless] **SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
17 **PARAGRAPH, UNLESS** evidence is presented that a student has been tested within the
18 past year, the screenings required under subsection (a) of this section shall be given in the
19 year that a student enters a school system, enters the first grade, and enters the eighth or
20 ninth grade.

21 **(II) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBPARAGRAPH**
22 **(I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A COMPUTERIZED SCREENING FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS**
23 **SHALL BE GIVEN EACH YEAR TO EACH STUDENT WHO HAS AN INDIVIDUALIZED**
24 **EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

25 (2) Further screening shall be done in accordance with:

26 (i) The bylaws adopted by the State Board; or

27 (ii) Policies adopted by a county board or a county health
28 department.

29 (c) The results of the hearing and vision screenings **AND COMPUTERIZED**
30 **SCREENING FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS** required by this section shall be:

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

1 (2) Given to the parents of any student who [fails]:

2 (I) FAILS the screenings; OR

3 (II) MAY HAVE POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS OF A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT;

4 and

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

6 (d) On a form provided by the county board or the county health department, a
7 parent or guardian shall report to the county board or the county health department on the
8 recommended services received by a student who failed the screenings **OR WHO MAY HAVE**
9 **POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS OF A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT.**

10 (e) The county board or the county health department shall report to the
11 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene the results of the hearing and vision screenings
12 **AND COMPUTERIZED SCREENINGS FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS** and, to the extent
13 practicable, the number of students receiving the recommended services.

14 (f) In cooperation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the
15 Department of Education shall adopt standards, rules, and regulations to carry out the
16 provisions of this section.

17 (g) A student whose parent or guardian objects in writing to hearing and vision
18 screening **OR A COMPUTERIZED SCREENING FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS** on the ground
19 that it conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized church or religious
20 denomination of which he is an adherent or member may not be required to take these
21 screenings.

22 Article – Health – General

23 15–103.

24 (a) (1) The Secretary shall administer the Maryland Medical Assistance
25 Program.

26 (2) The Program:

27 (i) Subject to the limitations of the State budget, shall provide
28 medical and other health care services for indigent individuals or medically indigent
29 individuals or both;

30 (ii) Shall provide, subject to the limitations of the State budget,
31 comprehensive medical and other health care services for all eligible pregnant women
32 whose family income is at or below 250 percent of the poverty level, as permitted by the
33 federal law;

1 (iii) Shall provide, subject to the limitations of the State budget,
2 comprehensive medical and other health care services for all eligible children currently
3 under the age of 1 whose family income falls below 185 percent of the poverty level, as
4 permitted by federal law;

5 (iv) Beginning on January 1, 2012, shall provide, subject to the
6 limitations of the State budget, family planning services to all women whose family income
7 is at or below 200 percent of the poverty level, as permitted by federal law;

8 (v) Shall provide, subject to the limitations of the State budget,
9 comprehensive medical and other health care services for all children from the age of 1 year
10 up through and including the age of 5 years whose family income falls below 133 percent of
11 the poverty level, as permitted by the federal law;

12 (vi) Beginning on January 1, 2014, shall provide, subject to the
13 limitations of the State budget, comprehensive medical care and other health care services
14 for all children who are at least 6 years of age but are under 19 years of age whose family
15 income falls below 133 percent of the poverty level, as permitted by federal law;

16 (vii) Shall provide, subject to the limitations of the State budget,
17 comprehensive medical care and other health care services for all legal immigrants who
18 meet Program eligibility standards and who arrived in the United States before August 22,
19 1996, the effective date of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
20 Reconciliation Act, as permitted by federal law;

21 (viii) Shall provide, subject to the limitations of the State budget and
22 any other requirements imposed by the State, comprehensive medical care and other health
23 care services for all legal immigrant children under the age of 18 years and pregnant women
24 who meet Program eligibility standards and who arrived in the United States on or after
25 August 22, 1996, the effective date of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work
26 Opportunity Reconciliation Act;

27 (ix) Beginning on January 1, 2014, shall provide, subject to the
28 limitations of the State budget, and as permitted by federal law, medical care and other
29 health care services for adults whose annual household income is at or below 133 percent
30 of the poverty level;

31 **(X) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2018, SHALL PROVIDE,**
32 **SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET AND AS PERMITTED BY**
33 **FEDERAL LAW, VISION REHABILITATION AND HABILITATION FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS**
34 **WHOSE FAMILY INCOME FALLS BELOW 133 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LEVEL;**

35 **[(x)] (XI)** Subject to the limitations of the State budget, and as
36 permitted by federal law:

1 1. Shall provide comprehensive medical care and other
2 health care services for former foster care adolescents who, on their 18th birthday, were in
3 foster care under the responsibility of the State and are not otherwise eligible for Program
4 benefits;

5 2. May provide comprehensive medical care and other health
6 care services for former foster care adolescents who, on their 18th birthday, were in foster
7 care under the responsibility of any other state or the District of Columbia; and

8 3. May provide comprehensive dental care for former foster
9 care adolescents who, on their 18th birthday, were in foster care under the responsibility
10 of the State;

11 [(xi)] **(XII)** May include bedside nursing care for eligible Program
12 recipients; and

13 [(xii)] **(XIII)** Shall provide services in accordance with funding
14 restrictions included in the annual State budget bill.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2017.