

HOUSE BILL 1283

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Edward C. Sandoval

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING A CHECK-OFF OPTION FOR DRIVERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SAVE OUR CHILDREN'S SIGHT FUND"; CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SAVE OUR CHILDREN'S SIGHT FUND CREATED.--The "save our children's sight fund" is created in the state treasury. Money in the fund shall consist of appropriations, contributions, grants and statutory revenues directed to the fund. Money in the fund is appropriated to the department of health, which shall administer the fund for the purpose of development and implementation of a vision screening program making vision screenings and follow-up comprehensive examinations available to New Mexico children regardless of family income. Expenditures from the fund shall be by warrants

.164762.2

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 of the secretary of finance and administration drawn pursuant
2 to vouchers signed by the secretary of health or the
3 secretary's authorized representative. Money in the fund shall
4 not revert at the end of a fiscal year.

5 Section 2. A new section of the Public School Code is
6 enacted to read:

7 "[NEW MATERIAL] VISION SCREENING.--An elementary school
8 nurse shall administer an annual vision screening test for
9 students enrolled in the school and for transfer and new
10 students, unless a parent affirmatively prohibits the visual
11 screening."

12 Section 3. A new section of Chapter 24 NMSA 1978 is
13 enacted to read:

14 "[NEW MATERIAL] NOTICE OF THE NEED FOR FURTHER VISION
15 EVALUATION AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.--The department of health
16 shall promulgate rules for award of money from the save our
17 children's sight fund. When the vision screen of a student
18 indicates the need for further evaluation, the student's school
19 shall notify the student's parent by mail and enclose
20 information on the availability of funds from the save our
21 children's sight fund. The notice shall state that the parent,
22 if the student is not already covered by health insurance for a
23 comprehensive eye examination, may apply to the fund for the
24 following expenses as a result of the screening:

25 A. a comprehensive eye examination by an

.164762.2

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 optometrist or ophthalmologist whose services are used to
2 follow up the school vision screen;

3 B. the cost of contact lenses or polycarbonate
4 lenses and the least expensive frames for eyeglasses; and

5 C. replacement insurance for lost or broken lenses
6 or ruined contact lenses."

7 Section 4. A new section of Chapter 66, Article 6 NMSA
8 1978 is enacted to read:

9 "[NEW MATERIAL] SAVE OUR CHILDREN'S SIGHT FUND OPTION.--
10 The vehicle registration form in use as of January 1, 2008
11 shall include a check-off option for a driver who wishes to
12 contribute to the save our children's sight fund for a one-
13 dollar (\$1.00) or a five-dollar (\$5.00) fee in addition to the
14 registration fees required by the division. All fees collected
15 from the check-off option shall be paid to the state treasurer
16 to the credit of the save our children's sight fund within two
17 months of receipt."

18 Section 5. TEMPORARY PROVISION.--The secretary of health
19 shall appoint an advisory committee to establish the standard
20 for an appropriate vision screening. The committee shall
21 consist of a practicing school nurse, a representative of a
22 statewide organization for the prevention of blindness, a
23 licensed New Mexico optometrist, a licensed New Mexico
24 ophthalmologist and a licensed New Mexico pediatrician. The
25 department of health shall promulgate rules to establish vision

.164762.2

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

screening test standards pursuant to this section.

Section 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is January 1, 2008.