

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 1297

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to vision screenings for students in public or private school.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 36.003, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1-a) "Electronic eye chart" means any computerized or other electronic system, device, or method of displaying on an electronic screen medically accepted and properly sized optotypes, which may be letters, numbers, or symbols, a health care practitioner or other person uses to assess an individual's visual acuity. The term does not include an automated computer program that assesses an individual's visual acuity through the individual's interaction with the program by playing a game.

SECTION 2. Section 36.004(b-1), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b-1) The rules must allow an individual who attends a public or private school to be screened:

(1) using photoscreening to detect vision disorders;  
and

(2) using an electronic eye chart as a substitute for a printed eye chart to assess visual acuity.

SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human

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1 Services Commission shall adopt the rules necessary to implement  
2 the changes in law made by this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.