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Title: Conditions for Mandatory Vision Screening

Introduced by: Patrick J. Droste, MD, for the Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Original Author: Patrick J. Droste, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee A

House Action: **AMEND**

Whereas, the State of Michigan has a long established Vision Screening Program (VSP) that covers every county in the state, and

Whereas, the current VSP is implemented effectively through primary care physicians and state/school sponsored vision screenings, and

Whereas, the current statewide system of vision screening ensures follow-up through the local health departments and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and

Whereas, optometrists, ophthalmologists, and members of the Michigan Department of Education have long collaborated in the formation of policies for the VSP that is updated on a regular basis, and

Whereas, studies have been performed in the past ten years that support the efficacy of the VSP in Michigan, and

Whereas, primary care physicians can now bill and be reimbursed by insurance companies for vision screening as part of their well child evaluation at a much lower reimbursement than a comprehensive eye examination; thereby, saving health care dollars, and

Whereas, new technical vision screeners have been developed that increase the accuracy of vision screening in primary care offices, and

Whereas, mandatory screening of infants and children by optometrists is an unfunded mandate that requires an unnecessary drain on health care resources; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the current State of Michigan Vision Screening Program (VSP) for infants and children which ensures follow-up and collaboration with local health departments, primary care physicians, schools, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and opposes any changes to the current VSP process that do not demonstrate added value.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE