



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Governor Signs Bill Providing Eye Exams to Children

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JEFFERSON CITY – Governor Matt Blunt this week signed legislation that ensures Missouri students receive proper screenings for vision problems. Senate Bill 16 requires comprehensive eye examinations for children entering kindergarten or first grade. It also requires vision screenings for students beginning first and third grades.

I have sponsored similar legislation for the past few years. When I was a child I apparently had a lazy eye that did not get diagnosed nor treated. What they tell me now is if you don't get treatment at the right time, the nerves to your eye and your brain don't develop properly, so you don't have good vision. That's what happened to me and I'll wear glasses for the rest of my life.

The key issue here is identifying children who have vision problems and suffer in their education because of their vision problems. This will open the door for great opportunities in education, where kids can actually mature and study and grow at their right speed and will be productive in life.

Comprehensive eye exams will be conducted by eye care professionals who will review all aspects of eye health. It's our goal to identify these kids at an early age and get them to where they are not held back, while preventing eye damage as they grow up.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.mo.gov](mailto:delbertscott@senate.mo.gov).