who appears is entitled to an appearance fee of twenty-five dollars and rea-
sonable attorney fees.

Passed the Senate April 15, 1985.
Passed the House April 9, 1985.
Approved by the Governor May 7, 1985.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 7, 1985.

CHAPTER 216
[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 4227]
SCOLIOSIS SCREENING

AN ACT Relating to scoliosis screening in public schools; amending RCW 28A.31.130,
28A.31.132, 28A.31.134, 28A.31.136, and 28A.31.140; and adding a new section to chapter
28A.31 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 1, chapter 47, Laws of 1979 and RCW 28A.31.130 are
each amended to read as follows:

The legislature recognizes that the condition known as ((idiopathie))
scoliosis, a lateral curvature of the spine commonly appearing in adoles-
cents, can develop into a permanent, crippling disability if left untreated.
Early diagnosis and referral can often result in the successful treatment of
this condition and greatly reduce the need for major surgery. Therefore, the
purpose of RCW 28A.31.130 through 28A.31.142 is to recognize that a
school screening program is an invaluable tool for detecting the number of
adolescents with scoliosis. It is the intent of the legislature to insure that the
superintendent of public instruction provide and require screening for the
condition known as scoliosis of all children in the highest risk age group,
grades 5 through ((9)) 10, to ascertain which, if any, of these children have
defects requiring corrective treatment.

Sec. 2. Section 2, chapter 47, Laws of 1979 and RCW 28A.31.132 are
each amended to read as follows:

As used in ((this-chapter)) RCW 28A.31.130 through 28A.31.142, the
following terms have the meanings indicated.

(1) "Superintendent" means the superintendent of public instruction of
public schools in the state, or his designee.
(2) "Pupil" means a student enrolled in the public school system in the
state.
(3) "Scoliosis" includes idiopathic scoliosis and kyphosis.
(4) "Screening" means an examination to be performed on all pupils in
grades 5 through ((9)) 10 for the purpose of detecting the condition known
as scoliosis, except as provided in section 6 of this 1985 act.

(((4))) (5) "Public schools" means the common schools referred to in
Article IX of the state Constitution and those schools and institutions of
learning having a curriculum below the college or university level as now or 
may be established by law and maintained at public expense.

Sec. 3. Section 3, chapter 47, Laws of 1979 and RCW 28A.31.134 are 
each amended to read as follows:

The superintendent shall provide for and require the yearly examina-
tion of all children attending public schools in grades 5 through ((8)) 10, 
except as provided in section 6 of this 1985 act, in accordance with proce-
dures and standards adopted by rule of the state board of health in cooper-
ation with the superintendent of public instruction. The examination shall 
be made by a school physician, school nurse, qualified licensed health prac-
titioner, or physical education instructor or by other school personnel. 
Proper training of the personnel in the screening process for scoliosis shall 
be provided by the superintendent.

Sec. 4. Section 4, chapter 47, Laws of 1979 and RCW 28A.31.136 are 
each amended to read as follows:

Every person performing the screening under RCW 28A.31.134 shall 
promptly prepare a record of the screening of each child found to have or 
suspected of having scoliosis and shall send copies of the records to the par-ents or guardians of the children. The notification shall include an explana-
tion of ((idiopathic)) scoliosis, the significance of treating it at an early 
stage, and the services generally available from a qualified licensed health 
practitioner for the treatment after diagnosis.

Sec. 5. Section 6, chapter 47, Laws of 1979 and RCW 28A.31.140 are 
each amended to read as follows:

Any pupil shall be exempt from the examination upon written request 
of his or her parent or guardian if the parent or guardian certifies that:

(1) The screening conflicts with the philosophical or religious beliefs; or 
(2) The student is presently under the care of a health care provider 
for spinal curvature or a related medical condition.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 28A.31 
RCW to read as follows:

After July 1, 1987, the superintendent of public instruction may waive 
screening for scoliosis for grades 9 and/or 10, not withstanding RCW 
28A.31.132(4) and 28A.31.134, after conducting a cost/benefit analysis of 
such screening for school years 1985–86 and 1986–87.

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Approved by the Governor May 7, 1985. 
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