

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*First Regular Session*

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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'22 NOV 10 P2:00

**SENATE**  
**S.B. No. 1495**

RECEIVED BY:

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**AN ACT  
TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE EYE  
EXAMINATIONS TO CHILDREN**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 11358, otherwise known as the National Vision Screening Act, was enacted on July 2019. It is intended to screen the eye vision of kindergarten students and identify eye problems at early childhood.

This proposed measure seeks to complement the said law. It aims to provide comprehensive eye examinations for children already identified at high risk of vision impairment.

Data from the Philippine Eye Research Institute (PERI) as of 2017 showed that one in 20 pre-schoolers and one in 4 school-aged children experienced eye problems. Over 10% of Filipino children were also expected to have "visual acuity" issues or problems with their vision.

With the current distance learning set-up among Filipino students, this number is expected to rise. Thus, the urgency of this measure.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE EYE**  
**EXAMINATIONS TO CHILDREN**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress assembled:*

1           SECTION 1. *Short title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Children’s Vision  
2 Improvement and Learning Readiness Act of 2022”.

3  
4           Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms and  
5 phrases shall mean as follows:

6           A. *Secretary* – means Secretary of Health;

7           B. *Child* - as defined by Part 1, Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of  
8 the Child, shall mean every human being below the age of eighteen  
9 years; *and*

10          C. *Comprehensive eye examination* – means an assessment of a patient’s  
11 history, general medical observation, external and ophthalmoscopic  
12 examination, visual acuity, ocular alignment and motility, refraction, and  
13 as appropriate, binocular vision or gross visual fields, performed by an  
14 optometrist or an ophthalmologist.

15  
16          Sec. 3. *Grants Regarding Comprehensive Eye Examinations for Children.* –  
17

- 1 A) In General – The Secretary may make grants to cities and municipalities for the  
2 purpose of:
- 3 1) Providing comprehensive eye examinations for children identified or considered  
4 at high risk of vision impairment, with priority given to school-based programs  
5 for children;
  - 6 2) Providing subsequent treatment or services necessary to correct vision  
7 problems; and
  - 8 3) Developing and disseminating, to parents, teachers, health care practitioners,  
9 and the public, educational materials on recognizing signs of visual impairment  
10 in children, and the State’s vision improvement initiatives.
- 11 B) Criteria and Coordination.
- 12 1) Criteria. – The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate professional and  
13 consumer organizations including individuals with knowledge of age-  
14 appropriate vision services, shall develop criteria –
    - 15 a) Governing the operation of the grant program; and
    - 16 b) For the collection of data related to vision assessment and the utilization of  
17 follow up services.
- 18 C) Application. – A grant may be made under Paragraph (A) only if an application for  
19 the grant is submitted to the Secretary and the application is in such form, made  
20 in such manner, and contains such information as the Secretary may require,  
21 including:
- 22 1) Information on existing government-funded children’s vision screening  
23 programs;
  - 24 2) a plan for the use of grant funds, including how funds will be used to  
25 complement existing country’s efforts;
  - 26 3) a plan to determine if a grant eligible child has received an age-appropriate  
27 vision screening; and
  - 28 4) a description of how funds will be used to provide items or services only as a  
29 secondary payer to –
    - 30 a) any government compensation program, under an insurance policy, or  
31 under any government health benefits program; or
    - 32 b) by any entity that provides health services on a prepaid basis.

1 D) Evaluations. – A grant may be made under paragraph (A) only if the municipality  
2 involved agrees that, not later than one (1) year after the date on which amounts  
3 under the grant are first received by the municipality, and annually thereafter while  
4 receiving amounts under the grant, the municipality will submit to the Secretary  
5 an evaluation of the operations and activities carried out under the grant, including:  
6 1) An assessment of the utilization of vision services and the status of children  
7 receiving these services as a result of the activities carried out under the grant;  
8 2) The collection, analysis, and reporting of children’s vision data according to  
9 guidelines prescribed by the Secretary; and  
10 3) Such other information as the Secretary may require.

11  
12 *Sec. 4. Authorization of Appropriations.* – For the purpose of carrying out this  
13 Act, such sums as may be deemed appropriate by the Secretary are hereby authorized  
14 to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

15  
16 *Sec. 5. Separability Clause.* If any portion of this Act is declared  
17 unconstitutional or invalid, the portions or provisions which are not affected shall  
18 continue to be in full force and effect.

19  
20 *Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and  
21 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed  
22 or modified accordingly.

23  
24 *Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general  
26 circulation.

*Approved.*