

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND  
THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH TO IMPLEMENT THE  
PROVISIONS OF SECTION 16-29-1, CODE OF ALABAMA 1975.

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that the condition known as scoliosis, a lateral curvature of the spine commonly appearing in adolescents, can develop into a permanent crippling disability if left untreated; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and referral, however, can often result in the successful treatment of this condition, thereby greatly reducing the need for major surgery; and

WHEREAS, the highest risk group for the development of scoliosis encompasses the ages 11 through 14 or our state's junior high school aged students; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that Section 16-29-1, Code of Alabama 1975, specifically provides that the Department of Education and the State Board of Health shall, in conjunction, arrange for the examination of all public school students in Alabama for a number of physical defects and diseases including "any deformity or dislocation of the hip joints or spinal disease," no screenings for scoliosis have been or are currently being conducted as required by said law; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby direct the Department of Education and the State Board of Health to immediately implement procedures for examination of all public school students, ages 11 through 14, for the purpose of detecting the development of scoliosis and for referring those children with positive screenings to a trained medical professional.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said screenings shall begin with the 1984-1985 school year and shall be phased in over a period of five years after the effective date of this resolution.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the State Department of Education and to the State Board of Health that immediate steps may be taken to comply with this directive of the Alabama Legislature and the provisions of Section 16-29-1, Code of Alabama 1975.

Approved March 26, 1984

Time: 10:50 A.M.