

Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary

Bill No. H2423
Title: *An Act relative to pupil dental health*
Sponsor: Representatives Sean Garballey and Christine P. Barber
Committee: Public Health
Hearing Date: September 10, 2025
Similar Matters: None
Prior History: Refile of H2172 of 23-24; PHC study
Reporting Deadline: November 9, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 71 §53-57** governs nursing, medical, and other health requirements in schools.
 - **§57** requires all pupils to receive specific physical examinations at determined intervals, including vision screening at the start of kindergarten, unless exempted.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 111 §185A** requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide materials and appliances for accomplishing the purposes of M.G.L., Chapter 71, §53 through 57.
- **105 CMR 200.000**, promulgated by DPH, regulates the physical examination of school children.

Summary:

This bill requires parents or legal guardians of pupils entering kindergarten to prove that a child has received an approved dental screening within the past 12 months. DPH would be required to maintain oral health data related to the screenings.

Section 1 amends M.G.L., Chapter 71, §57 by adding a requirement that parents or guardians of children entering kindergarten provide to school health personnel certification of a dental screening within the previous 12 months of their enrollment.

- An exemption may be made if the exam would impose an undue financial burden or if the parent or guardian doesn't consent to the examination.

Section 2 adds a new section to M.G.L., Chapter 71 that requires public schools to notify parents or guardians about the required dental screening and sets minimum guidelines for the notification.

Section 3 amends M.G.L., Chapter 111, §185A by requiring DPH to provide information to parents and legal guardians about programs and services to access affordable dental care.

Section 4 requires DPH to develop a standardized notification form for school districts to use. The form must include a section for the licensed dentist to record required information from the screening, as well as a section for the parent or guardian to indicate the reason why an exam could not be completed.

Section 5 requires school districts to submit an annual report to DPH with specific oral health data for the districts' pupils. DPH must create an internet-based application for the collection of the reports.

Section 6 mandates DPH to maintain data collected in Section 5 and release it if requested.