

1 HJR378  
2 140822-1  
3 By Representative Patterson  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 12-APR-12

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8 RECOGNIZING INFANTSEE AND PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE  
9 IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DETECTION OF EYE DISORDERS.

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11 WHEREAS, InfantSEE is a program sponsored by the  
12 American Optometry Association to provide assessments designed  
13 to complement a pediatrician's routine well-care visit through  
14 a one-time, no-cost eye and vision evaluation to infants  
15 between the ages of 6-12 months, regardless of family income  
16 or access to insurance coverage; and

17 WHEREAS, infant screening to detect eye disorders or  
18 visual problems is essential during the first year of life to  
19 prevent lifelong disabilities, social impairments, and cost to  
20 the health care system; and

21 WHEREAS, frequently, because of their subtlety,  
22 visual disorders are undetected, resulting in very poor  
23 outcomes for children in later years; infants and children who  
24 are disadvantaged or fail to receive the recommended sequence  
25 of well-baby visits during the first year are at greater risk  
26 for long-term visual disabilities; and

1           WHEREAS, many eye disorders, when treated early, are  
2 resolved during the formative years, preventing long-term  
3 visual problems or cost to the health care system; and

4           WHEREAS, one in 10 children is at risk from  
5 undiagnosed eye and vision problems which, if undetected,  
6 could lead to permanent visual impairment; however, only 14  
7 percent of children from infancy to age six have had a  
8 comprehensive eye assessment from an eye care professional;  
9 now therefore,

10           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize the  
12 nationwide initiative InfantSEE and, by copy of this  
13 resolution, we join in promoting awareness of this worthy  
14 program sponsored by the American Optometry Association for  
15 the benefit of our children, whose vision depends upon early  
16 detection of eye disorders.