

Regular Session, 2008

SENATE BILL NO. 129

BY SENATOR NEVERS

STUDENTS. Requires compulsory kindergarten attendance. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:151.3 (C)(1) and (D), relative to kindergarten; to require attendance at a full-day kindergarten program for a full school year as a prerequisite to enrollment in the first grade of a public school; to provide for effectiveness; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:151.3(C)(1) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§151.3. Kindergarten; establishment; entrance age; first grade enrollment, prerequisites

* * *

C.(1) Beginning with the 1991-1992 **2009-2010** school year and thereafter, every child, as a prerequisite to enrollment in any first grade of a public school, shall have attended at least a full-day public or private kindergarten for a full school year; ~~or shall have satisfactorily passed an academic readiness screening administered by the city or parish school system prior to the time of enrollment for the first grade.~~

Each city or parish school system shall establish the academic readiness level for its

1 first grade based on criteria established by the system.

2 * * *

3 D. Every parent, tutor, or other person having control or charge of a child
4 who is eligible, as provided in Subsection B of this Section, to attend full-day
5 kindergarten for the ~~1990-1991~~ **2008-2009** school year or thereafter, as a prerequisite
6 to enrollment in any first grade of a public school, shall send such child, beginning
7 with the ~~1990-1991~~ **2008-2009** school year, to attend public or private full-day
8 kindergarten ~~when such instruction is offered in the public schools, or insure that~~
9 ~~such child is administered an academic readiness screening as provided in~~
10 ~~Subsection C of this Section prior to the time established in R.S. 17:222 for the child~~
11 ~~to enter first grade.~~

12 * * *

13 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
14 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
15 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
16 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
17 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Present law requires each local school system to provide for and offer full-day kindergarten instruction to each child who is one year younger than the age required for the child to enter first grade as provided by law.

Present law requires every child to attend a full-day public or private kindergarten for a full school year as a prerequisite to enrollment in first grade in a public school or satisfactorily pass an academic readiness screening prior to first grade enrollment.

Proposed law removes the academic readiness screening alternative and provides that beginning with the 2009-2010 school year and thereafter, every child must attend at least a full-day public or private kindergarten for a full school year as a prerequisite to enrollment in first grade in a public school.

Proposed law further requires every parent, tutor, or other person having control or charge of a child who is eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2008-2009 school year or thereafter to send such child to attend public or private full-day kindergarten, beginning with the 2008-2009 school year as a prerequisite to first grade enrollment in a public school.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S.17:151.3(C)(1) and (D))