

Act 598 of the 1989 Regular Session.

Act 598

HB1747

By: Representatives McKissack, Cabe, Townsend, Wilkins, Schexnayder

"AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 6, CHAPTER 18, SUBCHAPTER 2, OF THE ARKANSAS CODE OF 1987 TO PROVIDE FOR KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-18-201 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"6-18-201. (a) Every parent, guardian, or other person residing within the State of Arkansas having custody or charge of any child or children age five (5) through sixteen (16) years, both inclusive, shall enroll and send the child or children to a public, private, or parochial school or provide a home school for the child or children as described in 6-15-601 et. seq. under such penalty for noncompliance as shall be set by law with the following exceptions:

(1) Any child who has received a high school diploma, or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education, is not subject to this attendance requirement.

(2) Any parent, guardian or other person residing within the State and having custody or charge of any child or children may elect for the child or children not to attend kindergarten if the child or children will not be age six (6) on October 1 of that particular school year. If such an election is made, the parent, guardian or other person having custody or charge of the child must file a signed kindergarten waiver form with the local district administrative office. Such form shall be prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education. On filing the kindergarten waiver form, the child or children shall not be required to attend kindergarten in that school year.

(b) Any child who will be six (6) years of age on or before October 1 of the school year of enrollment and who has not completed a state-accredited kindergarten program shall be evaluated by the district and placed either in the first grade or kindergarten depending upon the results of the evaluation."

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 6-18-207 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"6-18-207. (a) Students may enter kindergarten in the public schools of this State if they will attain the age of five (5) years on or before October 1 of the year in which they are seeking initial enrollment. Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60) days, who will become five (5) years old during the year in which he is enrolled in kindergarten and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request.

(b) Students may enter the first grade in the public schools of this state if they will attain the age of six (6) years on or before October 1 of the school year in which they are seeking enrollment. Any child who has been enrolled in first grade in a state accredited or approved elementary school in another state for a period of at least sixty (60) days, who will become age six (6) years during the school year in which he is enrolled in grade one, and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in first grade."

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

APPROVED: March 15, 1989

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