

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas

2 89th General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2013

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5 By: Representative <NA>

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For An Act To Be Entitled

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AN ACT TO ALLOW EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN FOR

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EXTRAORDINARY CHILDREN WHO DO NOT MEET THE MINIMUM

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AGE REQUIREMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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TO ALLOW EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

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FOR EXTRAORDINARY CHILDREN WHO DO NOT

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MEET THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT.

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

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SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-207(a)(1)-(3), concerning the minimum age for enrollment in public school kindergarten, is amended to read as follows:

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~~(a)(1)(A) For the 2009-2010 school year, students may enter kindergarten in the public schools of this state if they will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1, 2009.~~

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~~(B) For the 2010-2011 school year, students may enter kindergarten in the public schools of this state if they will attain the age of five (5) years on or before August 15, 2010.~~

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~~(C) For the 2011-2012 school year and afterwards, students~~
A student may enter kindergarten in the a public schools of school in this state if ~~they~~ he or she will attain the age of five (5) years on or before August 1 of the year in which ~~they are~~ he or she is seeking initial enrollment.

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(2) ~~Any~~ A student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60)

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1 days, who will become five (5) years old during the year in which he or she
2 is enrolled in kindergarten, and who meets the basic residency requirement
3 for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request by
4 a parent or guardian to the school district.

5 ~~(3)(A) Notwithstanding the age requirements in subdivision~~
6 ~~(a)(1) of this section, a public school or public school district shall allow~~
7 ~~a child to enroll in kindergarten if the child:~~

8 ~~(i) Was enrolled in a state approved prekindergarten~~
9 ~~program during the 2008-2009 school year;~~

10 ~~(ii) Attended a state approved prekindergarten~~
11 ~~program for at least one hundred (100) days during the 2008-2009 school year~~
12 ~~and each subsequent year in which he or she has been enrolled in a state-~~
13 ~~approved prekindergarten program; and~~

14 ~~(iii) Will be at least five (5) years of age no~~
15 ~~later than September 15 during the year in which he or she enrolls in~~
16 ~~kindergarten.~~

17 ~~(B) As used in this subdivision (a)(3), "state approved~~
18 ~~prekindergarten program" means a prekindergarten program that is accredited~~
19 ~~and quality approved by the Department of Human Services Division of Child~~
20 ~~Care and Early Childhood Education.~~

21 (3)(A) A student who attains the age of four (4) years on or
22 before April 15 may enter kindergarten if the:

23 (i) Parent or guardian presents the student for
24 enrollment in kindergarten by the end of the first month of the school year;
25 and

26 (ii) Principal of the school determines, based on
27 information submitted to the principal by the student's parent or guardian,
28 that the student is gifted and has the maturity to justify admission to
29 kindergarten.

30 (B) The parent or guardian shall obtain information on the
31 student's ability and maturity at the parent's or guardian's expense.

32 (C) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
33 for the implementation of this subdivision (a)(3).

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