

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

SENATE BILL 619

By: Senator Chaffin

"AN ACT TO AMEND ACT 60 OF THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF 1983, AS AMENDED [ARK. STAT. ANN. §80-1501.2--1503], TO PROVIDE FOR KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Act 60 of the First Extraordinary Session of 1983, as amended [Ark. Stat. Ann. §80-1501.2], is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. (a) Students may enter kindergarten in the public schools of this State if they will attain the age of five (5) 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) 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) on or before October 1 of the school year in which they are seeking enrollment and have completed a school year in a public, private or parochial kindergarten program. 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) during the school year in which he is enrolled in grade 1, and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in first grade."

SECTION 2. Section 3 of Act 60 of the First Extraordinary Session of 1983, as amended [Ark. Stat. Ann. §80-1503], is hereby amended to read as

follows:

"Section 3. (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), both inclusive, shall send such child, or children, to a public, private, parochial or home school under such penalty for non-compliance as 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.

(3) 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 be at least six (6) years of age but will not yet be seven (7) years of age 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 age six (6) or seven (7) on or before October 1 of the school year of enrollment and who has not completed a school year in a public, private or parochial kindergarten program shall be evaluated by the district and be placed either in kindergarten or first grade depending upon the results of the evaluation."

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are

hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 1987.

