

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 252

5 By: Senator D. Johnson
6 By: Representatives Saunders, Webb
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE ENROLLMENT AGE IN
10 PREKINDERGARTEN IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ENROLLMENT
11 CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO PUBLIC SCHOOL; TO ENSURE
12 ADEQUATE NOTICE IS GIVEN TO PREKINDERGARTEN
13 PROGRAM PROVIDERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 TO ENSURE THE ENROLLMENT AGE IN
16 PREKINDERGARTEN IS CONSISTENT WITH THE
17 ENROLLMENT CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO
18 PUBLIC SCHOOL.
19
20
21
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 45, Subchapter 1 is amended
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 6-18-230. Minimum age for enrolling in prekindergarten.

28 (a)(1) For the 2009-2010 school year;

29 (A) A child may enter a prekindergarten program for
30 children three (3) years of age if:

31 (i) The child will attain three (3) years of age on
32 or before August 1,2009; or

33 (ii) The child was enrolled in a prekindergarten
34 program for children two (2) years of age for a minimum of one-hundred (100)
35 days during the 2008-2009 school year; and
36



1 (B) A child may enter a prekindergarten program for
 2 children four (4) years of age if:

3 (i) The child will attain four (4) years of age on or
 4 before August 15, 2009; or

5 (ii) The child was enrolled in a prekindergarten
 6 program for children three (3) years of age for a minimum of one-hundred
 7 (100) days during the 2008-2009 school year.

8 (2) For the 2010-2011 school year and each school year
 9 thereafter;

10 (A) A child may enter a prekindergarten program for
 11 children three (3) years of age if the child will attain three (3) years of
 12 age on or before August 1 immediately preceding the beginning of the school
 13 year; and

14 (B) A child may enter a prekindergarten program for
 15 children four (4) years of age if:

16 (i) The child will attain four (4) years of age on
 17 or before August 1 immediately preceding the beginning of the school year; or

18 (ii) The child was enrolled in a prekindergarten
 19 program for children two (2) years of age for a minimum of one-hundred (100)
 20 days during the 2008-2009 school year and a prekindergarten program for
 21 children three (3) years of age for a minimum of one-hundred (100) days
 22 during the 2009-2010 school year.

23 (b)(1) The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the
 24 Department of Human Services shall notify all providers of appropriate early
 25 childhood programs for prekindergarten of the age requirements specified in
 26 subsection (a) of this section no later than sixty (60) days prior to the
 27 open enrollment period for prekindergarten programs each year through the
 28 2011-2012 school year.

29 (2) The notification shall consist of:

30 (A) Three (3) written notification letters sent to the
 31 address of record on file with the department;

32 (B) One (1) phone calls with the director of the early
 33 childhood prekindergarten program;

34 (C) One (1) site visit to the facility where the early
 35 childhood prekindergarten program is located; and

36 (D) Publication on the department's website.

1
2 SECTION 2: DO NOT CODIFY.

3 For the 2009-2010 school year, the division shall notify all providers
4 of appropriate early childhood programs for prekindergarten of the new age
5 requirements no later than fourteen (14) days after enactment.
6

7 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
8 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that families in Arkansas are
9 suffering an undue hardship created by the establishment of new kindergarten
10 enrollment criteria; that some children currently enrolled in prekindergarten
11 programs are not eligible to enroll in kindergarten due to newly implemented
12 criteria; that the immediate implementation of this act is necessary for
13 public school districts and families of these children to prepare for
14 enrollment of students in prekindergarten and kindergarten programs during
15 the 2009-2010 school year and beyond; and that this act is immediately
16 necessary because failure to allow consistent enrollment age criteria will
17 cause irreparable harm to the education of these children and the well-being
18 of this state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
19 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,
20 and safety shall become effective on:

21 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

22 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
23 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
24 bill; or

25 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
26 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36