

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

As Engrossed: S2/26/09
A Bill

SENATE BILL 252

5 By: Senator D. Johnson
6 By: Representatives Saunders, Webb
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9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE ENROLLMENT AGE IN
11 PREKINDERGARTEN IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ENROLLMENT
12 CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO PUBLIC SCHOOL; TO ENSURE
13 ADEQUATE NOTICE IS GIVEN TO PREKINDERGARTEN
14 PROGRAM PROVIDERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

16 **Subtitle**

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

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 *Section 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2 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 the child will attain three (3) years of*
31 *age on or before August 1, 2009; and*

32 *(B) A child may enter a prekindergarten program for*
33 *children four (4) years of age if:*

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

36 *(ii) The child was enrolled in a prekindergarten*



1 program for children three (3) years of age for a minimum of one hundred
2 (100) days during the 2008-2009 school year.

3 (2) For the 2010-2011 school year and each school year
4 thereafter:

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

9 (B) A child may enter a prekindergarten program for
10 children four (4) years of age if the child will attain four (4) years of age
11 on or before August 1 immediately preceding the beginning of the school year.

12 (b)(1) The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the
13 Department of Human Services shall notify all providers of appropriate early
14 childhood programs for prekindergarten of the age requirements specified in
15 subsection (a) of this section by providing one (1) written notification
16 letter sent to each provider of appropriate early childhood programs for
17 prekindergarten at the address of record on file with the Department of Human
18 Services.

19 (2) The prekindergarten age requirements specified in subsection
20 (a) of this section shall be published on the website of the:

21 (A) Department of Human Services; and

22 (B) Department of Education.

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24 SECTION 2: DO NOT CODIFY.

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

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29 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
30 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that families in Arkansas are
31 suffering an undue hardship created by the establishment of new kindergarten
32 enrollment criteria; that some children currently enrolled in prekindergarten
33 programs are not eligible to enroll in kindergarten due to newly implemented
34 criteria; that the immediate implementation of this act is necessary for
35 public school districts and families of these children to prepare for
36 enrollment of students in prekindergarten and kindergarten programs during

1 the 2009-2010 school year and beyond; and that this act is immediately
2 necessary because failure to allow consistent enrollment age criteria will
3 cause irreparable harm to the education of these children and the well-being
4 of this state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
5 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,
6 and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

11 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
12 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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14 */s/ D. Johnson*
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