

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 10

BY SENATOR FIELDS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

KINDERGARTEN. Provides for mandatory kindergarten attendance and requires compulsory school attendance beginning at age 5. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:151.3, 221(A)(1), and 222, relative to compulsory school

3 attendance; to provide for mandatory attendance in kindergarten; to provide for

4 effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:151.3, 221(A)(1), and 222 are hereby amended and reenacted to

7 read as follows:

8 §151.3. Kindergarten; establishment; entrance age; ~~first grade enrollment,~~

9 prerequisites

10 A. ~~Beginning with the 1990-1991 school year and thereafter, each~~ **Each** city,

11 ~~and parish, and other local public school system board~~ shall provide for and offer,

12 in every school having a first grade or in a ~~parish~~ kindergarten center, full-day

13 kindergarten instruction to each child ~~who is eligible as provided in Subsection B of~~

14 ~~this Section.~~

15 B.(1) ~~The youngest age at which a child may enter kindergarten provided for~~

16 ~~in Subsection A of this Section shall be one year younger than the age required for~~

17 ~~that child to enter first grade as provided by R.S. 17:222(A) or, through the 1995-~~

1 1996 school year, one year younger than the age required by the city or parish school  
 2 board pursuant to R.S. 17:222(C)(1) who turns five years of age on or before  
 3 September thirtieth of the calendar year in which the school year begins.

4 ~~(2)B.~~ However, each city, and parish, and other local public school board,  
 5 by rule, may provide, for a child younger than the age prescribed by Paragraph ~~(1)~~  
 6 ~~of this Subsection~~ (A) of this Section to enter kindergarten; provided that ~~such the~~  
 7 child has been evaluated and identified as gifted in accordance with the regulations  
 8 of the state Department of Education for ~~such evaluation.~~ Notwithstanding the  
 9 provisions of R.S. 17:222(A) or (C), any A child admitted to kindergarten pursuant  
 10 to this Paragraph Subsection shall be eligible to enter first grade upon successful  
 11 completion of kindergarten; provided all other applicable entrance requirements have  
 12 been fulfilled.

13 C.(1)~~(a)~~ Beginning with the 1991-1992 For the 2021-2022 school year and  
 14 thereafter, every , a child, as a prerequisite to enrollment in any the first grade of a  
 15 public school, shall have attended at least a full-day public or private kindergarten  
 16 for a full school year, or shall have satisfactorily passed an academic readiness  
 17 screening administered by the city, or parish, or other local public school system  
 18 board prior to the time of enrollment for in the first grade. Each city, or parish, or  
 19 other local public school system board shall establish the academic readiness level  
 20 for its entry into the first grade based on criteria established by the system.

21 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a child, as a prerequisite  
 22 to enrollment in the first grade of a public school, shall have attended a full-day  
 23 public or private kindergarten for a full school year, and shall have  
 24 satisfactorily passed an academic readiness screening administered by the city,  
 25 parish, or other local public school board prior to the time of enrollment in the  
 26 first grade. Each city, parish, or other local public school board shall establish  
 27 the academic readiness level for entry into the first grade.

28 (2) Beginning with the 1991-1992 school year and thereafter, any A child  
 29 transferring into the first grade of a public school from out of state and not meeting







Sept. 30th. Also requires that prior to entering first grade that a child must have either attended a full-day kindergarten or have passed an academic readiness screening established by the local school system. Requires parents and legal guardians to send a child to kindergarten or ensure that the child is administered a readiness screening prior to the child entering first grade.

Proposed law requires, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a child who turns five years of age on or before Sept. 30th to attend full-day kindergarten and to pass a readiness assessment prior to entering first grade.

Present law (R.S. 17:221) requires compulsory school attendance for children ages 7 through 18, unless the child graduates from high school prior to his 18th birthday.

Proposed law provides, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, that compulsory school attendance begins the year during which a child turns 5 on or before September 30th.

Present law (R.S. 17:222) provides that the minimum age that a child may enter first grade of any public school is six years of age on or before Sept. 30th of the calendar year in which the school year begins. Allows the Jefferson and Orleans Parish School Boards to set by rule a different minimum age for first grade entrance. Present law also requires proof of age, race, and parentage.

Proposed law removes the minimum age threshold for entry into the first grade. Provides that the provisions of present law that allows Jefferson and Orleans Parishes to establish different entry standards shall become null and void on June 30, 2022.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:151.3, 221(A)(1), and 222)