

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 47

BY SENATOR FIELDS

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED. Requires public schools to offer prekindergarten instruction.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.8(A) and 3995(F) relative to elementary education; to
3 require each city, parish, and other public school board to offer full-day
4 prekindergarten instruction; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17: 24.8(A) and 3995(F) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
7 as follows:

8 §24.8. Prekindergarten programs

9 A. Each city, parish, or other local public school board ~~may~~ **shall** develop and
10 offer, **in every school having a kindergarten class, full-day** prekindergarten
11 instruction. ~~The youngest age at which a child may enter prekindergarten provided for~~
12 ~~by this Subsection shall be two years younger than the age required for that child to~~
13 ~~enter first grade as provided by R.S. 17:222(A)~~ **to each child who turns three years**
14 **of age on or before September thirtieth of the calendar year in which the school**
15 **year begins.**

16 * * *

17 §3995. Charter school funding

18 * * *

1 F. Every pupil enrolled in a charter school shall be counted in the school's total
 2 pupil count for purposes of funding including each pupil who is pursuing a high
 3 school diploma or participating in a pre-general education development skills program
 4 as defined by policy adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 5 Education. ~~No~~ **Each** child enrolled in a prekindergarten program offered by a charter
 6 school shall be counted for purposes of funding pursuant to the provisions of
 7 Subsection A of this Section ~~unless such funding is specifically provided for such~~
 8 ~~purpose. However, such school~~ **in the same manner as a child enrolled in a**
 9 **prekindergarten program in any other public school and** shall be eligible for any
 10 other funding that may become available pursuant to the provisions of Subsection C
 11 of this Section for children enrolled in prekindergarten programs.

12 * * *

13 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 14 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 15 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 16 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 17 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of
 the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

DIGEST

SB 47 Original 2022 Regular Session Fields

Present law allows each city, parish, and other local public school board to offer prekindergarten instruction and provides for the age at which a child may enter prekindergarten.

Proposed law requires each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide full-day prekindergarten in every school that has a kindergarten to each child who turns three by September thirtieth of the calendar year in which the school year begins.

Present law provides for charter schools and provides for such charter schools to receive state funding on a per pupil basis. Present law further provides that no child enrolled in a prekindergarten program offered by a charter school shall be counted for purposes of state funding, unless such funding is specifically provided.

Proposed law requires each child enrolled in a charter school prekindergarten program to be counted for purposes of per pupil state funding in the same manner as a child enrolled in a prekindergarten program in any other public school. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:24.8(A) and 3995(F))