
DIGEST

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Guinn

HB No. 373

Abstract: Lowers the minimum age to enter pre-K from four to three, authorizes certain nonpublic schools to offer pre-K, and requires that a child be at least six to enter first grade at certain nonpublic schools.

Prekindergarten:

Present law authorizes public school boards to develop and offer prekindergarten instruction (pre-K). Proposed law additionally grants this authority to approved nonpublic elementary schools.

Present law provides that the minimum age for entrance into pre-K is two years younger than the minimum age to enter first grade. Present law requires a child to be six on or before Sept. 30th of the calendar year when the school year starts to enter first grade, so a child may enter pre-K at the age of four according to present law.

Proposed law, for both public and approved nonpublic schools, provides that the minimum age for pre-K entrance shall be three years younger than the minimum age to enter first grade, thus providing that a child may enter pre-K at the age of three.

First grade:

Present law (R.S. 17:222(A)) requires a child to be six years old on or before Sept. 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins to enter first grade at any public school. Proposed law applies this same age requirement to first grade entrance at any approved nonpublic elementary school.

Present law (R.S. 17:222(C)(1) and (2)) provides for an exception to the first grade minimum age requirement through the 1995-1996 school year. Proposed law deletes present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.8(A) and 222(A) and (C))