

By Representative Diaz de la Portilla

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school attendance; amending  
3           s. 232.01, F.S.; revising provisions relating  
4           to eligibility for enrollment in public  
5           kindergartens; authorizing the enrollment of  
6           certain children who are determined to be ready  
7           for entrance into kindergarten; providing  
8           eligibility requirements; providing school  
9           district requirements; authorizing the state  
10          board to adopt rules; providing an effective  
11          date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15           Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of  
16          section 232.01, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, are amended  
17          to read:

18           232.01 School attendance.--

19           (1)(a)1. All children who have attained the age of 6  
20          years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February  
21          1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but  
22          who have not attained the age of 16 years, except as  
23          hereinafter provided, are required to attend school regularly  
24          during the entire school term.

25           2.a. Children who will have attained the age of 5  
26          years on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible  
27          for admission to public kindergartens during that school year  
28          under rules prescribed by the school board.

29           b. Children who will have attained the age of 5 years  
30          after September 1 but before January 1 of the school year are  
31          eligible to take the assessment of readiness for kindergarten

1 which is included in the statewide assessment program. Upon  
2 written request of a child's parent or guardian, the school  
3 district must provide at least one opportunity for the child  
4 to take the assessment of readiness for kindergarten. Any  
5 child who is determined to be ready for entrance into  
6 kindergarten, according to rules of the state board, is  
7 eligible for admission to public kindergartens during that  
8 school year. Any child who is determined not to be ready for  
9 entrance into kindergarten, according to rules of the state  
10 board, is subject to the admission requirements of  
11 sub-subparagraph a. The state board may adopt rules to  
12 implement the provisions of this sub-subparagraph.

13           3. Children who will have attained the age of 3 years  
14 on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for  
15 admission to prekindergarten early intervention programs  
16 during that school year as provided in s. 230.2305 or a  
17 preschool program as provided in s. 228.061.

18           (b) Any child who has attained the age of 6 years on  
19 or before September 1 of the school year and who has been  
20 enrolled in a public school or who has attained the age of 6  
21 years on or before September 1 and has satisfactorily  
22 completed the requirements for kindergarten in a nonpublic  
23 school from which the district school board accepts transfer  
24 of academic credit, or who has been enrolled in a public  
25 kindergarten under the provisions of sub-subparagraph (a)2.b.,  
26 or who otherwise meets the criteria for admission or transfer  
27 in a manner similar to that applicable to other grades, shall  
28 progress according to the district's pupil progression plan.  
29 However, nothing in this section shall authorize the state or  
30 any school district to oversee or exercise control over the  
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1 curricula or academic programs of nonpublic schools or home  
2 education programs.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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5 HOUSE SUMMARY

6  
7 Revises provisions relating to eligibility for enrollment  
8 in public kindergartens. Authorizes children who will  
9 have attained the age of 5 years after September 1 but  
10 before January 1 of the school year to take the  
11 assessment of readiness for kindergarten upon written  
12 request of the child's parent or guardian. Requires the  
13 school district to provide at least one opportunity to  
14 take such assessment. Authorizes the enrollment in public  
15 kindergarten of any child determined to be ready for  
16 entrance into kindergarten according to rules of the  
17 state board. Authorizes the adoption of rules to  
18 implement the provisions of the bill.

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