

By the Committee on Education Innovation and  
Representatives Diaz de la Portilla and Goodlette

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  
10          Commissioner of Education to adopt rules;  
11          providing an effective date.

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
14

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. Beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, children  
30 who will have attained the age of 5 years after September 1  
31 but before October 1 of the school year are eligible to take

1 the assessment of readiness for kindergarten which is included  
2 in the statewide assessment program. Beginning in the  
3 2000-2001 school year, children who will have attained the age  
4 of 5 years after September 1 but before November 1 of the  
5 school year are eligible to take the assessment of readiness  
6 for kindergarten which is included in the statewide assessment  
7 program. Beginning in the 2001-2002 school year, children who  
8 will have attained the age of 5 years after September 1 but  
9 before December 1 of the school year are eligible to take the  
10 assessment of readiness for kindergarten which is included in  
11 the statewide assessment program. Beginning in the 2002-2003  
12 school year, children who will have attained the age of 5  
13 years after September 1 but before January 1 of the school  
14 year are eligible to take the assessment of readiness for  
15 kindergarten which is included in the statewide assessment  
16 program. Upon written request of a child's parent or guardian,  
17 the school district must provide at least one opportunity for  
18 the child to take the assessment of readiness for  
19 kindergarten. Any child who is determined to be ready for  
20 entrance into kindergarten, according to rules of the  
21 Commissioner of Education, is eligible for admission to public  
22 kindergartens during that school year. Any child who is  
23 determined not to be ready for entrance into kindergarten,  
24 according to rules of the commissioner, is subject to the  
25 admission requirements of sub-subparagraph a. The commissioner  
26 may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this  
27 sub-subparagraph.

28         3. Children who will have attained the age of 3 years  
29 on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for  
30 admission to prekindergarten early intervention programs  
31

1 during that school year as provided in s. 230.2305 or a  
2 preschool program as provided in s. 228.061.

3 (b) Any child who has attained the age of 6 years on  
4 or before September 1 of the school year and who has been  
5 enrolled in a public school or who has attained the age of 6  
6 years on or before September 1 and has satisfactorily  
7 completed the requirements for kindergarten in a nonpublic  
8 school from which the district school board accepts transfer  
9 of academic credit, or who has been enrolled in a public  
10 kindergarten under the provisions of sub-subparagraph (a)2.b.,  
11 or who otherwise meets the criteria for admission or transfer  
12 in a manner similar to that applicable to other grades, shall  
13 progress according to the district's pupil progression plan.  
14 However, nothing in this section shall authorize the state or  
15 any school district to oversee or exercise control over the  
16 curricula or academic programs of nonpublic schools or home  
17 education programs.

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