

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
10 Department of Education to adopt rules;
11 providing an effective 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, are amended to read:

17 232.01 School attendance.--

18 (1)(a)1. All children who have attained the age of 6
19 years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February
20 1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but
21 who have not attained the age of 16 years, except as
22 hereinafter provided, are required to attend school regularly
23 during the entire school term.24 2.a. Children who will have attained the age of 5
25 years on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible
26 for admission to public kindergartens during that school year
27 under rules prescribed by the school board.28 b. Beginning in the 2001-2002 school year, children
29 who will have attained the age of 5 years after September 1
30 but before October 1 of the school year are eligible to
31 participate in the school readiness uniform screening

1 developed by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness.
2 Beginning in the 2002-2003 school year, children who will have
3 attained the age of 5 years after September 1 but before
4 November 1 of the school year are eligible to participate in
5 the school readiness uniform screening. Beginning in the
6 2003-2004 school year, children who will have attained the age
7 of 5 years after September 1 but before December 1 of the
8 school year are eligible to participate in the school
9 readiness uniform screening. Beginning in the 2004-2005
10 school year, children who will have attained the age of 5
11 years after September 1 but before January 1 of the school
12 year are eligible to participate in the school readiness
13 uniform screening. Upon the written request of an eligible
14 child's parent or guardian, the school district must provide
15 one opportunity for the child to participate in the school
16 readiness uniform screening at a time convenient to the parent
17 or guardian. The Department of Education shall adopt rules to
18 allow any child who is assessed under this sub-subparagraph by
19 the school district as ready for entrance into kindergarten to
20 be eligible for admission to public kindergartens during that
21 school year. Any child who is assessed under this
22 sub-subparagraph by the school district as not ready for
23 entrance into kindergarten is subject to the admission
24 requirements of sub-subparagraph a.

25 3. Children who will have attained the age of 3 years
26 on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for
27 admission to prekindergarten early intervention programs
28 during that school year as provided in s. 230.2305 or a
29 preschool program as provided in s. 228.061. All children from
30 birth to the age of kindergarten eligibility who meet the
31 eligibility criteria in s. 411.01(6) are eligible for

1 admission to the school readiness program of their choice
2 pursuant to s. 411.01.

3 (b) Any child who:

4 1. Has attained the age of 6 years on or before
5 ~~September 1 of the school year and who has been enrolled in a~~
6 ~~public school or who has attained the age of 6 years on or~~
7 ~~before September 1 and;~~

8 2. Has satisfactorily completed the requirements for
9 kindergarten in a nonpublic school from which the district
10 school board accepts transfer of academic credit;

11 3. Has been enrolled in a public kindergarten under
12 the provisions of sub-subparagraph (a)2.b.; or who

13 4. Otherwise meets the criteria for admission or
14 transfer in a manner similar to that applicable to other
15 grades,

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17 shall progress according to the district's pupil progression
18 plan. However, nothing in this section shall authorize the
19 state or any school district to oversee or exercise control
20 over the curricula or academic programs of nonpublic schools
21 or home education programs.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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25 HOUSE SUMMARY

26 Revises provisions relating to eligibility for enrollment
27 in public kindergarten to authorize the enrollment of
28 certain children who are determined to be ready for
29 entrance into kindergarten. Authorizes the Department of
30 Education to adopt rules.
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