

By Senators Diaz de la Portilla and Meek

36-16-00

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 determined to be ready for  
7           entrance into kindergarten; providing  
8           eligibility requirements; providing school  
9           district requirements; authorizing the  
10          Commission 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 2000-2001 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 take  
31 the assessment of readiness for kindergarten which is included

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

22           3. Children who will have attained the age of 3 years  
23 on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for  
24 admission to prekindergarten early intervention programs  
25 during that school year as provided in s. 230.2305 or a  
26 preschool program as provided in s. 228.061.

27           (b) Any child who has attained the age of 6 years on  
28 or before September 1 of the school year and who has been  
29 enrolled in a public school or who has attained the age of 6  
30 years on or before September 1 and has satisfactorily  
31 completed the requirements for kindergarten in a nonpublic

1 school from which the district school board accepts transfer  
2 of academic credit, or who has been enrolled in a public  
3 kindergarten under the provisions of sub-subparagraph (a)2.b.,  
4 or who otherwise meets the criteria for admission or transfer  
5 in a manner similar to that applicable to other grades, shall  
6 progress according to the district's pupil progression plan.  
7 However, nothing in this section shall authorize the state or  
8 any school district to oversee or exercise control over the  
9 curricula or academic programs of nonpublic schools or home  
10 education programs.

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

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SENATE SUMMARY

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Revises eligibility for enrollment in public kindergarten. Requires a school district to provide at least one opportunity for children to take the assessment of readiness for kindergarten. Authorizes the enrollment of any child determined to be ready for entrance into kindergarten according to rules of the Commissioner of Education.