

CHANGE KINDERGARTEN AGE

House Bill 4697

Sponsor: Rep. Ron Jelinek

House Bill 4698

Sponsor: Rep. Robert Brackenridge

Committee: Education

Complete to 10-21-97

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4697 AND 4698 AS INTRODUCED 4-24-97

The Revised School Code says that a child is entitled to enroll in kindergarten in the school district of residence if he or she is at least five years old on December 1 of the school year of enrollment. House Bill 4697 would amend the code to change the date to November 1 for the 1997-98 school year; October 1 for the 1998-99 school year; and September 1 for the 1999-2000 and subsequent school years. (The bill also would remove the expression that a child "is entitled to" enroll, and would say instead that a child "may" enroll.) The bill would specify that these provisions apply also to a child's eligibility to enroll in a public school academy (or charter school). House Bill 4698 makes corresponding amendments to the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1606).

The parent or legal guardian of a child who did not meet the earlier date but would be five years old by December 1 could apply for a waiver with the school principal not later than the May 1 preceding the school year for which enrollment was sought. The principal would have to form a committee consisting of a school administrator and two teachers to evaluate the child's kindergarten readiness. The committee would have to administer to the child a skills level assessment commonly used in the district for evaluating kindergarten readiness and conduct interviews with the child and the parents or legal guardian. The parents or legal guardian would have to be notified of the decision by July 1. The committee's decision would be final.

Analyst: C. Couch

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.