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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/18/11
 SPONSOR HCPAC LAST UPDATED 03/04/11 HB 193/HCPACS
 SHORT TITLE Birthday Deadline for Kindergarten Enrollment SB _____
 ANALYST Gudgel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal	Minimal			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 193 amends the Public School Code to allow a child who reaches their 5th birthday on or before September 1 to be accepted for kindergarten enrollment, and a child who reaches their 4th birthday on or before September 1 to be accepted for prekindergarten enrollment. Current law requires a child to reach their 5th birthday prior to 12:01 am on September 1 to enroll for kindergarten, and their 4th birthday prior to September 1 to enroll in prekindergarten.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Enactment of this bill will result in a slight increase in the pool of children who will be eligible to participate in kindergarten and prekindergarten during the FY12 school year, but would result

in fewer children eligible to enroll in FY13. This may affect funding formula allocations for kindergarten in FY12 and FY13. Because the funding formula relies on prior year membership data, any increase in student membership in FY12 would have an impact on school budgets in FY12 and FY13.

Enactment of the bill will not affect prekindergarten funding.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill amends the definition of a “qualified student” in the Public School code to clarify that a child who is 5 years of age any time on September 1 will be accepted for kindergarten that school year. Currently, in order to enroll in kindergarten a child must be born before 12:01 am on September 1. PED indicates that parents of children that are born after 12:01 am on September 1st have called the department in the past to ask if there are exceptions to this statute to allow their child to be enrolled in kindergarten. School districts can accept these children but do so knowing they will not receive funding for these children. Generally, districts will not accept children born on or after September 1.

The Prekindergarten Act was also amended to maintain a seamless transition into kindergarten for children participating in the state funded PreK program.

The definition of a “school-age person” was also amended to track with the changes made to the definition of a “qualified student”.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD and PED have performance measures related to early education. Many PreK programs have waiting lists for services. There may be a slight increase in the number of children who are eligible to apply for enrollment in the state funded PreK Program during the first year of enactment of this bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

School districts and CYFD PreK providers may have to revise their kindergarten enrollment forms, parent handbooks and other related enrollment documents.

RSG/bym:mew