

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2010
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1006

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 09, 2010
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Adams
One Liner: Change provisions relating to kindergarten entrance age

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Cornett, Giese, Haar, Howard, Sullivan

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Greg Adams
Caroline Winchester

Mary Yilk
Linda Freye
Melody Hobson
Joe Kohout
Jay Sears

Representing:

Introducer
Loup City Public Schools, Nebraska Rural Community School Association
Nebraska Council of School Administrators
Lincoln Education Assoc
Nebraska Department of Education
Ralston Public Schools
Nebraska State Education Association

Opponents:

Neutral:

Mary Campbell

Representing:

Representing:
Lincoln Public Schools

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 1006 would move the date by which a student must be 5 years old in order to enter kindergarten or the beginner grade from October 15 to July 31 beginning with the 2012-13 school year. An exception would be added for a child who turns 5 on or between August 1 and October 15 if the child has demonstrated through an assessment procedure approved by the school board that the child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten or the beginner grade. The State Board of Education would be required to adopt model assessment procedures for this purpose that the school boards may or may not adopt. The existing exceptions would continue for children who have attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction and who are going to relocate to another jurisdiction that would allow admission.

Section 79-214 would be amended by changing the provisions regarding age for entry into kindergarten or the beginner grade beginning with the 2012-13 school year. School boards would generally be prohibited from admitting children into kindergarten or the beginner grade unless the child had reached the age of 5 on or before July 31 immediately preceding the school year for which the child is seeking admission. However, school boards would be allowed to admit a child who will reach the age of 5 years on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 of such school year if the parent or guardian provides an affidavit stating that the child has demonstrated through a recognized assessment

procedure approved by the school board that he or she is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten or the beginner grade. The current exceptions would continue that allow parents and guardians to provide affidavits stating that the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year or that the family anticipates relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year. A new requirement would provide that each school board shall approve and make available a recognized assessment procedure for determining if a child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten or the beginner grade on or before January 1, 2012. The board would be allowed to approve either a model assessment procedure adopted by the State Board of Education or another recognized assessment procedure. School boards would be authorized to update approved procedures as appropriate.

The current provisions of section 79-214 require that a child be 5 on or before October 15 of the school year for which admission is sought. In addition, a child may be admitted if the child will turn 5 between October 16 and February 1 and has demonstrated through recognized assessment procedures approved by the board that he or she is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten or the beginner grade. Under the current provisions, school boards are not required to approve any assessment procedures for this purpose.

Section 79-101 would be amended by modifying the definition of prekindergarten programs to harmonize with the changes in section 79-214.

Section 79-318 would be amended by requiring the State Board of Education to adopt one or more model assessment procedures on or before July 1, 2011 for determining if a child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten or the beginner grade and to update such procedures as appropriate.

Sections 79-8,133 and 79-8,137.01 would be amended by harmonizing with subdivision numbering changes in section 79-318.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee Amendment strikes the proposed duty of the Department of Education to create a model assessment for kindergarten readiness. The amendment also deletes the alternative to kindergarten of a "beginner grade" for the entrance age requirements. Prior to 1988, the "beginner grade" was not necessarily kindergarten. Since that time, kindergarten has been a requirement for public school systems.

Greg Adams, Chairperson