House Study Bill 629 - Introduced

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to eligibility of older children for the
2   statewide preschool program for four-year-old children.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256C.3, subsection 1, Code 2011, is
2 amended to read as follows:
3 1. *Eligible children.* A child who is a resident of Iowa and
4 is four years of age on or before September 15 of a school year
5 shall be eligible to enroll in the preschool program under this
6 chapter. If space and funding are available, a school district
7 approved to participate in the preschool program may enroll a
8 younger or older child in the preschool program; however, ~~the~~ a
9 younger child shall not be counted for state funding purposes.
10 Sec. 2. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
11 2011, is amended to read as follows:
12 *a.* To be included as an eligible student in the enrollment
13 count of the preschool programming provided by a school
14 district approved to participate in the preschool program, a
15 child must be at least four years of age by September 15 in the
16 base year and attending the school district's approved local
17 program.
18   EXPLANATION
19 This bill relates to eligibility of older children for the
20 statewide preschool program for four-year-old children. Under
21 current law, the program allows enrollment of a child who is
22 younger or older than four years of age by September 15 if
23 space and funding are available. However, the younger or older
24 child cannot be counted for state funding purposes.
25 The bill amends Code section 256C.3, relating to eligibility
26 for the program, and Code section 256C.4, relating to funding
27 provisions and enrollment, to allow a child older than
28 four years of age to be counted for state funding purposes.
29 Existing law in Code section 256C.4 prohibits a student
30 included in the enrollment count under the state foundation aid
31 formula determined under Code section 257.6 to also be included
32 in the enrollment count for the preschool program.