

House File 421 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 421

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(COMPANION TO SF 98 BY HART)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act expanding the statewide preschool program to include
2 certain five-year-old children and including effective date
3 and applicability provisions.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135.173A, subsection 4, paragraph p,
2 Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

3 *p.* One person who is part of a local program implementing
4 the statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young
5 children under **chapter 256C**.

6 Sec. 2. Section 135.173A, subsection 6, paragraph f, Code
7 2017, is amended to read as follows:

8 *f.* Make recommendations for improving collaborations
9 between the child care programs involving the department of
10 human services and programs supporting the education and
11 development of young children including but not limited to the
12 federal head start program; the statewide preschool program
13 for ~~four-year-old~~ young children; and the early childhood,
14 at-risk, and other early education programs administered by the
15 department of education.

16 Sec. 3. Section 256C.1, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2017, are
17 amended to read as follows:

18 1. "*Approved local program*" means a school district's
19 program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children approved by the
20 department of education to provide high quality preschool
21 instruction.

22 4. "*Preschool program*" means the statewide preschool program
23 for ~~four-year-old~~ young children created in accordance with
24 this chapter.

25 Sec. 4. Section 256C.1, Code 2017, is amended by adding the
26 following new subsection:

27 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. "*Young children*" means children who are
28 four years of age or who are five years of age and have not
29 previously enrolled in a preschool program.

30 Sec. 5. Section 256C.2, Code 2017, is amended to read as
31 follows:

32 **256C.2 Statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young**
33 **children — purpose.**

34 1. A statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young
35 children is established. The purpose of the preschool program

1 is to provide an opportunity for all young children in the
2 state to enter school ready to learn by expanding voluntary
3 access to quality preschool curricula for all children who
4 are four years old or who are five years old and have not
5 previously enrolled in a preschool program.

6 2. The state board shall adopt rules in accordance with
7 chapter 17A as necessary to implement the preschool program as
8 provided in [this chapter](#).

9 Sec. 6. Section 256C.3, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
10 2017, is amended to read as follows:

11 a. A child who is a resident of Iowa and is four years of
12 age on or before September 15 of a school year or who is five
13 years of age on or before September 15 of a school year and
14 has not previously enrolled in a preschool program shall be
15 eligible to enroll in the preschool program under [this chapter](#).
16 If such a child is enrolled under [this chapter](#), the child shall
17 be considered to be of compulsory attendance age as provided in
18 section 299.1A, subsection 3.

19 Sec. 7. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code
20 2017, is amended to read as follows:

21 b. Subject to implementation of [chapter 28E](#) agreements
22 between a school district and community-based providers of
23 services to four-year-old children and five-year-old children,
24 a four-year-old child or eligible five-year-old child who is
25 enrolled in a child care center or child development home
26 licensed or registered under [chapter 237A](#), or in an existing
27 public or private preschool program, shall be eligible for
28 services provided by the school district's local preschool
29 program.

30 Sec. 8. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended
31 to read as follows:

32 2. *Eligible student enrollment.*

33 a. To be included as an eligible student in the enrollment
34 count of the preschool programming provided by a school
35 district approved to participate in the preschool program, a

1 four-year-old children under Code chapter 256C to also include
2 five-year-old children who have not previously enrolled in a
3 preschool program under that Code chapter. The program is
4 administered by local school districts subject to rules adopted
5 by the state board of education and receives funding through
6 the school aid formula.

7 References to four-year-old children in the program named in
8 Code chapter 256C and in related Code provisions are changed
9 to "young children" or expanded to also refer to five-year-old
10 children who have not previously enrolled in a preschool
11 program under Code chapter 256C.

12 The bill takes effect upon enactment and applies to school
13 budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2017.