

House File 242 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 242

BY MASCHER

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 2019, 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 2019, 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 2019, 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 2019, 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 2019, 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, paragraphs a and b,
10 Code 2019, are 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 b. If space and funding are available, including funding
20 from another school district account or fund from which
21 preschool program expenditures are authorized by law, a school
22 district approved to participate in the preschool program may
23 enroll and pay the cost of attendance for a child younger than
24 four years of age or older child in the preschool program than
25 five years of age; however, the child shall not be counted for
26 state funding purposes.

27 Sec. 7. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code
28 2019, is amended to read as follows:

29 b. Subject to implementation of [chapter 28E](#) agreements
30 between a school district and community-based providers of
31 services to four-year-old children and five-year-old children,
32 a four-year-old child or eligible five-year-old child who is
33 enrolled in a child care center or child development home
34 licensed or registered under [chapter 237A](#), or in an existing
35 public or private preschool program, shall be eligible for

1 services provided by the school district's local preschool
2 program.

3 Sec. 8. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, Code 2019, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 2. *Eligible student enrollment.*

6 a. To be included as an eligible student in the enrollment
7 count of the preschool programming provided by a school
8 district approved to participate in the preschool program, a
9 child must be four years of age by September 15 or be five years
10 of age and meet the criteria under section 256C.3, subsection
11 1, paragraph "a", in the base year and attending the school
12 district's approved local program.

13 b. The enrollment count of eligible students shall not
14 include a child who is included in the enrollment count
15 determined under [section 257.6](#) or a child who is served by
16 a program already receiving state or federal funds for the
17 purpose of the provision of four-year-old or five-year-old
18 preschool programming while the child is being served by the
19 program. Such preschool programming includes but is not
20 limited to child development assistance programs provided under
21 chapter 256A, special education programs provided under section
22 256B.9, school ready children grant programs and other programs
23 provided under [chapter 256I](#), and federal head start programs
24 and the services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and
25 Secondary Education Act of 1965.

26 Sec. 9. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph a,
27 subparagraph (1), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

28 (1) An approved local program under the statewide preschool
29 program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children under [chapter 256C](#).

30 Sec. 10. Section 298A.2, subsection 2, paragraph c,
31 subparagraph (1), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

32 (1) Start-up costs for an approved local program under the
33 statewide preschool program for ~~four-year-old~~ young children
34 under [chapter 256C](#).

35 Sec. 11. Section 299.1A, subsection 3, Code 2019, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 3. A child who has reached the age of four or five by
3 September 15 and who is enrolled in the statewide preschool
4 program under chapter 256C shall be considered to be of
5 compulsory attendance age unless the parent or guardian
6 of the child submits written notice to the school district
7 implementing the program of the parent's or guardian's intent
8 to remove the child from enrollment in the preschool program.

9 Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed
10 of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

11 Sec. 13. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school budget
12 years beginning on or after July 1, 2019.

13 EXPLANATION

14 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
15 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

16 This bill expands the statewide preschool program for
17 four-year-old children under Code chapter 256C to also include
18 five-year-old children who have not previously enrolled in a
19 preschool program under that Code chapter. The program is
20 administered by local school districts subject to rules adopted
21 by the state board of education and receives funding through
22 the school aid formula.

23 References to four-year-old children in the program named in
24 Code chapter 256C and in related Code provisions are changed
25 to "young children" or expanded to also refer to five-year-old
26 children who have not previously enrolled in a preschool
27 program under Code chapter 256C.

28 The bill takes effect upon enactment and applies to school
29 budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2019.