

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1932

DATE: March 7, 2004

Version: As introduced

Authors: Anderson and others

Subject: Requiring students to complete kindergarten before entering first grade

Analyst: Lisa Larson, 651-296-8036

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

Minnesota's compulsory attendance law currently does not require children to attend kindergarten and full time kindergarten programs can charge children fees to attend. High stakes school accountability under the federal No Child Left Behind Act provides an impetus for states to intervene early to nurture children's fundamental education skills. This bill proposes to require all children under age 7, beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, to complete kindergarten before entering first grade unless the requirement is waived based on a showing of good cause.

Section

- 1** **Ages and terms.** (b) Requires all children under age 7 who are enrolled in school to complete kindergarten before entering first grade unless a school board or a school administrator designated by the school or school district waives this requirement based on a showing of good cause.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2005, and applicable to children enrolling in school in the 2005-2006 school year and later.