
The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Tammy Crain-Waldrop.

DIGEST

SB 10 Reengrossed 2021 Regular Session Fields

Present law (R.S. 17:151.3) requires public school systems to provide for and offer full-day kindergarten and establishes the minimum age for entrance into kindergarten as one year younger than the minimum age for entering first grade, which is six years old on or before Sept. 30th. Also requires that prior to entering first grade that a child must have either attended a full-day kindergarten or have passed an academic readiness screening established by the local school system. Requires parents and legal guardians to send a child to kindergarten or ensure that the child is administered a readiness screening prior to the child entering first grade.

Proposed law requires, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a child who turns five years of age on or before Sept. 30th to attend full-day kindergarten and to pass a readiness assessment prior to entering first grade.

Present law (R.S. 17:221) requires compulsory school attendance for children ages seven through 18, unless the child graduates from high school prior to his 18th birthday.

Proposed law provides, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, that compulsory school attendance begins the year during which a child turns five on or before September 30th.

Present law (R.S. 17:222) provides that the minimum age that a child may enter first grade of any public school is six years of age on or before Sept. 30th of the calendar year in which the school year begins. Allows the Jefferson and Orleans Parish School Boards to set by rule a different minimum age for first grade entrance. Present law also requires proof of age, race, and parentage.

Proposed law removes the minimum age threshold for entry into the first grade. Provides that the provisions of present law that allows Jefferson and Orleans Parishes to establish different entry standards shall become void on June 30, 2022.

Proposed law clarifies that families may home school for kindergarten but must report student attendance to the state Department of Education. Further provides that kindergarten students in an approved home study program shall be considered in compliance with the compulsory attendance law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:151.3, 221(A)(1), and 222; adds R.S. 17:221(E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Changes "private" to "nonpublic".
2. Clarifies that a parent may enroll a child in a home study program or a nonpublic school not seeking state approval.
3. Clarifies that students in an approved home study program shall be considered in compliance with compulsory attendance laws.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.