

1 HB208
2 210044-6
3 By Representative Warren
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21
6 PFD: 01/29/2021

1 admission to ~~the first grade~~ kindergarten in the public
2 elementary schools at the opening of ~~such~~ schools for that
3 school year or as soon as practicable thereafter. ~~A child who~~
4 ~~is under six years of age on December 31 or the date on which~~
5 ~~school begins in the enrolling district shall not be entitled~~
6 ~~to admission to the first grade in the public elementary~~
7 ~~schools during that school year; except, that an underage~~
8 ~~child who transfers from the first grade of a school in~~
9 ~~another state may be admitted to school upon approval of the~~
10 ~~board of education in authority, and an underage child who has~~
11 ~~moved into this state having completed or graduated from a~~
12 ~~mandated kindergarten program in another state shall be~~
13 ~~entitled to admission to the public elementary schools~~
14 ~~regardless of age. A child who becomes six years of age on or~~
15 ~~before February 1 may, on approval of the local board of~~
16 ~~education, be admitted at the beginning of the second semester~~
17 ~~of that school year to schools in school systems having~~
18 ~~semiannual promotions of pupils.~~

19 " (b) A child who ~~is five~~ becomes six years of age on
20 ~~or before~~ between September 1 and December 31, or by the date
21 on which school begins in the enrolling district, shall be
22 entitled to admission to the first grade in the local public
23 school ~~kindergartens~~ at the opening of ~~such~~ schools for that
24 school year or as soon as practicable thereafter; ~~a child who~~
25 ~~is under five years of age on September 1 or the date on which~~
26 ~~school begins in the enrolling district shall not be entitled~~
27 ~~to admission to such schools during that school year; except~~

1 ~~that, an underage child who transfers from the public school~~
2 ~~kindergarten in another state may be admitted to local public~~
3 ~~kindergarten on the prior approval of the local board of~~
4 ~~education on a space available basis. The aforementioned~~
5 ~~underage children transferring from the public school~~
6 ~~kindergartens of another state, upon successful completion of~~
7 ~~the kindergarten in the local public schools, will then be~~
8 ~~allowed admission to the first grade of the local public~~
9 ~~schools, as long as the child has successfully completed~~
10 ~~kindergarten or has otherwise demonstrated first grade~~
11 ~~readiness on a district approved assessment. kindergarten or~~
12 ~~otherwise demonstrates first grade readiness with benchmark~~
13 ~~scores, as determined by the State Department of Education, on~~
14 ~~department approved early reading and math assessments, and~~
15 ~~demonstrates first grade entry readiness, as determined by the~~
16 ~~department, on a department approved assessment of essential~~
17 ~~developmental writing and physical skills. The department~~
18 ~~shall publish information about essential first grade~~
19 ~~readiness skills on the Alabama Family Central, or successor,~~
20 ~~website.~~

21 "(c) An underage child may be admitted to public
22 kindergarten, on approval of the local board of education on a
23 space available basis, in either of the following
24 circumstances:

25 "(1) The underage child transfers from a public
26 kindergarten in another state.

1 "(2) The child will become five years of age between
2 September 1 and December 31, and the child satisfies certain
3 criteria that the local board of education may establish for
4 underage enrollment, which, if adopted, shall include the
5 successful completion of an assessment to determine
6 developmental readiness for enrollment.

7 "(d) An underage child may be admitted to public
8 first grade if the underage child transfers from the first
9 grade of a school in another state.

10 "(e) Nothing in this section shall affect the
11 eligibility of students for special education services as
12 provided by federal and state law.

13 ~~"(c) (d) (f)~~ No public school system shall lose any
14 teacher unit as a result of this section. The State Board of
15 Education is authorized to adopt policies for local boards of
16 education for the implementation of this section."

17 ~~Section 2. This act shall become effective on the~~
18 ~~first day of the third month, following its passage and~~
19 ~~approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.~~

20 This act shall become effective immediately
21 following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its
22 otherwise becoming law.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives committee on Education Policy
..... 02-FEB-21

Read for the second time and placed
on the calendar with 1 substitute
and..... 10-FEB-21

Read for the third time and passed
as amended..... 23-FEB-21

Yeas 83, Nays 17, Abstains 0

Jeff Woodard
Clerk