



FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 43

Committee: Education Policy

Sponsor: Representative Pebblin W. Warren

Analyst: John Friedenreich

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House Bill 43 as reported by the Committee on Education Policy would, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, (1) allow a child who is five years old before September 1 to be admitted to kindergarten; (2) allow local boards of education to admit underage children to kindergarten under certain circumstances; (3) allow a child who completes kindergarten to be admitted to the first grade; and (4) allow a child who has not completed kindergarten but who is six years old by December 31, and demonstrates first-grade entry readiness, to be admitted to first grade in local public schools.

The provisions of this bill could increase the average daily membership (ADM) for public kindergarten by an estimated maximum of 4,000 students annually, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. This increase in kindergarten ADM would result in an estimated maximum annual increase of \$8.4 million in Foundation Program funding, beginning in Fiscal Year 2024, using divisors, average calculated state teacher unit salary, and classroom instructional support allowances for fiscal year 2023. This amount would be reduced by an undetermined amount dependent upon the number of students attending non-public kindergarten or demonstrating first grade readiness, as provided in this bill.

In addition, this bill requires the Department of Education to create a first grade readiness assessment, to be approved by the State Board of Education and publish essential first grade readiness skills information on the Department's website, which could increase the obligations of the Department by an undetermined amount.