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H.B. 114
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Bird and Ritter

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SUMMARY

- Requires public schools to admit to kindergarten any child who will be five years old or, if the child has not completed first grade, six years old, by the first day of instruction of the school year of admittance.
- Eliminates the referral and evaluation process by which a public school may admit to kindergarten a four-year-old who will turn five by January 1 of the requested school year of admittance.
- Eliminates the law that permits a child who will *not* be five by January 1 of the requested school year of admittance to be admitted to kindergarten early under a school district's student acceleration policy.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Kindergarten minimum age requirement

The bill revises the minimum age requirements for admission to kindergarten for school districts, community schools, and STEM schools. Under current law, each district or school that admits all students to kindergarten in August or September must admit students who are five by September 30 of the year of admittance. For a district or school that permits enrollment in kindergarten at the beginning of a semester or term other than one beginning in August or September, current law requires the district or school to admit a student who is five by the first day of instruction of the term or semester of admittance.

The bill instead requires all districts and schools to admit to kindergarten any child who is five years old by the first day of instruction of the school year of admittance and any child who (1) is six years old by the first day of instruction and (2) has not yet completed first grade.¹

Eliminated exemptions from the minimum age requirements

The bill also eliminates the alternative processes under which a child who does not meet the minimum age requirements for kindergarten may be admitted early. Under current law, a district or school must evaluate for early admittance a child who does not meet the age requirements for regular admittance if (1) the child will be five years old by January 1 of the school year in which the admission is requested and (2) the child has been referred for early admittance by the child's parent or guardian, an educator employed by the district or school, a preschool educator who knows the child, or a pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Upon evaluation in accordance with district or school policy, current law requires the district or school to issue a decision on whether to admit the child to kindergarten early.

Lastly, the bill eliminates the option for a child who will *not* be five by January 1 of the year of admittance to be admitted to kindergarten early in accordance with a school district's student acceleration policy, which each district must have under continuing law.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-18-25

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¹ R.C. 3321.01(B), 3314.03(A)(11)(d), 3314.06(A), and 3314.08(B)(9). See also R.C. 3326.11, not in the bill.

² R.C. 3321.01(A)(3). See also R.C. 3324.10, not in the bill.