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S.B. 318
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Fedor

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Governor to submit a plan for and designate an agency to administer a universal preschool program if Congress appropriates funds for that purpose in H.R. 5376 of the 117th Congress.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Universal preschool

Governor's plan contingent on act of Congress

In the event that Congress passes a portion of H.R. 5376 of the 117th Congress that proposes to appropriate funds to pay states that establish universal preschool,¹ the bill requires the Governor to submit to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services a plan for universal, high quality, free, inclusive, and mixed delivery preschool services.²

On November 11, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 5376, the "Build Back Better Act," which appropriated funds for universal preschool. The U.S. Senate removed that provision of the bill, and reentitled it the "Inflation Reduction Act of 2022." The act was signed into law on August 16, 2022, without an appropriation for universal preschool.³ Therefore, the provisions of the bill do not apply.

¹ See Subtitle D, Section 23002 of the "Build Back Better Act," which may be accessed by conducting a keyword "Universal Pre-Kindergarten" search of [H.R. 5376 of the 117th Congress, as Engrossed in the House](#) on November 19, 2021, which is available on Congress's website: www.congress.gov.

² Division (A) of Section 1 of the bill.

³ "Inflation Reduction Act of 2022," [H.R. 5376 of the 117th Congress, as Enrolled](#).

Had there been an appropriation for universal preschool, within 30 days of submitting the plan, the Governor would have been required to designate a lead agency to administer the universal preschool program. The lead agency would then have to begin administering a universal program 30 days after funds are made available for the program.⁴

The bill also would have required the lead agency to do all of the following:

1. Support a continuous quality improvement system through the use of data, researching, monitoring, training, technical assistance, professional development, and coaching to support providers participating or seeking to participate in the universal preschool program and to support those providers in accordance with the federal act;
2. Provide outreach and enrollment support for families of eligible children, including specific outreach to families of underserved populations;
3. Support data systems building;
4. Support staff of eligible providers in pursuing credentials and degrees, including baccalaureate degrees;
5. Support activities that ensure access to inclusive preschool programs for children with disabilities, including activities that redesign or restructure existing preschool programs, as of the date of the activity, to improve inclusive services for children with disabilities;
6. Provide age-appropriate transportation services for children, including transportation services for children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care;
7. Conduct or update the statewide needs assessment used for purposes of the federal act.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-30-22

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⁴ Division (B) of Section 1 of the bill.

⁵ Division (C) of Section 1 of the bill.