

2010 -- H 7180

LC00709

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - ELIGIBILITY FOR ATTENDANCE

Introduced By: Representatives Ucci, and McNamara

Date Introduced: January 21, 2010

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-2-27 and 16-2-28 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-2 entitled
2 "School Committees and Superintendents" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-2-27. Eligibility for attendance -- Kindergarten.** – (a) Every child who has attained
4 or will have attained five (5) years of age on or before September 1 of any school year shall be
5 eligible to attend kindergarten during all the days that the kindergartens are in session during the
6 school year.

7 (b) If space is available, school departments shall consider requests for enrollment in
8 kindergarten for children who will have completed five (5) years of age after September 1 of the
9 school year, but before December 31st of that same school year. Requests of this nature shall be
10 considered and evaluated in accordance with guidelines issued by the department of elementary
11 and secondary education, and the department of elementary and secondary education is hereby
12 authorized and directed to promulgate such guidelines. Provided, this subsection shall not require
13 a school department to admit a child to kindergarten if the department determines such admission
14 would not be in the child's best interests.

15 **16-2-28. Eligibility for attendance -- First grade.** -- Every child who has completed or
16 will have completed six (6) years of life on or before September 1 of any school year, as well as
17 any younger child who entered and successfully completed a kindergarten program pursuant to
18 the provisions of subsection 16-2-27(b), or who has completed kindergarten shall be eligible to
19 attend first grade during all the days that the public schools are in session during the school year.

1 Every child shall be eligible to attend first grade only upon completion of a state recognized or
2 accredited kindergarten program.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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1 This act would authorize school departments to admit children into their kindergarten
2 programs even though those children have not reached age 5 by September 1 of the school year.
3 Such admissions would be made in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the department of
4 elementary and secondary education.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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