

SENATE, No. 1055

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 16, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires full-day kindergarten in all school districts and establishes uniform age requirement for enrollment in kindergarten.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S1055 TURNER, RUIZ

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1 AN ACT concerning kindergarten programs in public schools and
2 amending N.J.S.18A:38-5 and N.J.S.18A:44-2.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. N.J.S.18A:38-5 is amended to read as follows:

8 18A:38-5. No child **[under]** attaining the age of five years after
9 September 1 of that school year shall be admitted to any public
10 school, except such as may be provided pursuant to law for children
11 of his age.

12 No board of education shall be required to accept by transfer
13 from public or private school any pupil who was not eligible by
14 reason of age for admission on **[October]** September 1 of that
15 school year **[**, but the board may in its discretion admit any such
16 pupil if he or she meets such entrance requirements as may be
17 established by rules or regulations of the board **]**.

18 (cf: N.J.S.18A:38-5)

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20 2. N.J.S.18A:44-2 is amended to read as follows:

21 18A:44-2. a. The board of education of **[any]** a district **[may]**
22 shall establish a kindergarten school or kindergarten department,
23 which in order to receive State aid shall be a one-year program in
24 advance of or in preparation for entrance to first grade, in any
25 school under its control, and **[may** admit to such kindergarten
26 school or department any child over the age of four and under the
27 age of five and **]** shall admit to such kindergarten school or
28 department any child over the age of five and under the age of six
29 years as of September 1 of that school year who is a resident of the
30 district.

31 b. A kindergarten school or kindergarten department
32 established by a board of education shall provide a full-day
33 kindergarten program. A district classified in district factor groups
34 A, B, CD, or DE that is not providing a full-day kindergarten
35 program prior to the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before
36 the Legislature as this bill) shall provide a full-day kindergarten
37 program no later than the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.
38 Any other district that is not providing a full-day kindergarten
39 program prior to the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before
40 the Legislature as this bill) shall provide a full-day kindergarten
41 program no later than the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

42 (cf: P.L.1996, c.138, s.72)

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44 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires all school districts to provide full-day kindergarten programs for their students. If a school district does not currently provide a full-day kindergarten program, and is classified in district factor groups A, B, CD, or DE, then the district would be required to begin offering such a program by the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. All other school districts would be required to provide such a program by the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

The bill also establishes a uniform age requirement for a student to enroll in kindergarten. Under current law, each school district determines the date by which a child must attain the age of five years in order to enroll in kindergarten; districts are also allowed to enroll a child who is not yet five years old. Under the substitute, a child would have to be five years old by September 1 of the school year in order to enroll in kindergarten.