

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6773

BILL NUMBER: SB 317

SUBJECT: Kindergarten.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Head

FIRST SPONSOR:

**FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL**

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 23, 2010

BILL AMENDED:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a student is required to begin school in the fall term of the school year in which the student becomes six years of age. (Current law requires the student to begin school in the fall term of the school year in which the student becomes seven years of age.)

The bill requires that a student must be at least five years of age before: (1) September 1 of the 2012-2013 school year; (2) October 1 of the 2013-2014 school year; or (3) November 1 of the 2014-2015 school year or any subsequent school year; to enroll in a kindergarten offered by a school corporation.

The bill removes provisions that: (1) require the school superintendent to make a determination as to whether a child who enrolls in school and has not attended kindergarten shall enroll in Grade 1 or kindergarten; and (2) require the Department of Education to adopt a model assessment that may be used by the superintendent in making that determination.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill would require mandatory half-day kindergarten for students. Currently, kindergarten has to be offered by schools, but parents can choose to enroll their children or not. During the 2009 school year, there were 76,280 students attending public school kindergarten. In the 2010 school year, there were 80,038 students attending 1st grade in public school, a difference of 3,758 students. The number of students attending public kindergarten has increased over the last 20 years. In 1989, there were 71,210 students attending kindergarten and 80,882 students attending 1st grade the following year. An increase of 9,672 students.

The impact on the state would depend on the increase in the public school enrollments and the school formula in effect at that time. The current school formula is repealed on January 1, 2012. The impact on the 2010 school formula from increasing the kindergarten enrollment by 3,758 students would increase the school formula distribution to local schools by \$9.4 M. Any future impact would also depend on if the amount to be distributed exceeds the maximum state tuition support distribution during the calendar year.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Schools could have some additional costs associated with providing services to about 3,700 more students. Kindergarten is a half-day program, so the costs would be less than for other grades. The additional cost would depend on the number of teachers and facilities that might be required.

Explanation of Local Revenues: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Schools.

Information Sources: Department of Education databases.

Fiscal Analyst: Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.