

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 130

Short Title: Change School Entrance Age.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Tucker; and Wainwright.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

February 8, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE
3 THAT ALL STUDENTS ARE READY TO ENTER KINDERGARTEN.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-364 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 115C-364. Admission requirements.**

7 (a) A child who is presented for enrollment at any time during the first 120 days
8 of a school year is entitled to initial entry into the public schools if:

9 (1) The child reaches or reached the age of 5 on or before ~~October~~June 16
10 of that school year; or

11 (2) The child did not reach the age of 5 on or before ~~October~~June 16 of
12 that school year, but has been attending school during that school year
13 in another state in accordance with the laws or rules of that state before
14 the child moved to and became a resident of North Carolina.

15 (b) A local board may allow a child who is presented for enrollment at any time
16 after the first 120 days of a school year to be eligible for initial entry into the public
17 schools if:

18 (1) The child reached the age of 5 on or before ~~October~~June 16 of that
19 school year; or

20 (2) The child did not reach the age of 5 on or before ~~October~~June 16 of
21 that school year, but has been attending school during that school year
22 in another state in accordance with the laws or rules of that state before
23 the child moved to and became a resident of North Carolina.

24 (c) The initial point of entry into the public school system shall be at the
25 kindergarten level. If the principal of a school finds as fact subsequent to initial entry
26 that a child, by reason of maturity can be more appropriately served in the first grade
27 rather than in kindergarten, the principal may act under G.S. 115C-288 to implement
28 this educational decision without regard to chronological age. The principal of any
29 public school may require the parent or guardian of any child presented for admission

1 for the first time to that school to furnish a certified copy of the child's birth certificate,
2 which shall be furnished by the register of deeds of the county having on file the record
3 of the birth of the child, or other satisfactory evidence of date of birth.

4 (d) A child who has passed the fourth anniversary of the child's birth on or before
5 April 16 may enter kindergarten if the child is presented for enrollment no later than the
6 end of the first month of the school year and if the principal of the school finds, based
7 on information submitted by the child's parent or guardian, that the child is gifted and
8 that the child has the maturity to justify admission to the school. The State Board of
9 Education shall establish guidelines for the principal to use in making this finding."

10 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2008, and applies
11 beginning with the 2008-2009 school year.