

Regular Session, 2011
HOUSE BILL NO. 373
BY REPRESENTATIVE GUINN

ACT No. 102

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.8 and 222(C), relative to prekindergarten programs at
3 nonpublic elementary schools; to authorize certain nonpublic schools to develop and
4 offer prekindergarten instruction; to provide for the minimum age at which children
5 enter prekindergarten at nonpublic schools; to provide for rules and regulations; and
6 to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.8 and 222(C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
9 follows:

10 §24.8. Prekindergarten programs

11 A. Each city, ~~and parish, or other local public~~ school board may develop and
12 offer prekindergarten instruction. The youngest age at which a child may enter
13 prekindergarten provided for by this ~~Section~~ Subsection shall be two years younger
14 than the age required for that child to enter first grade as provided by R.S. 17:222(A)
15 ~~or, two years younger than the age required by the city or parish school board~~
16 ~~pursuant to R.S. 17:222(C).~~

17 B.(1) The governing authority of any approved nonpublic elementary school
18 may develop and offer prekindergarten instruction. The youngest age at which a
19 child may enter prekindergarten provided for by this Subsection shall be three years
20 old by September thirtieth of the year in which the child enrolls in prekindergarten.

21 (2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation
22 with the Nonpublic School Commission, shall adopt rules and regulations to protect

1 the health and safety of three-year-old children who attend prekindergarten at an
2 approved nonpublic elementary school.

3 C. The goal of prekindergarten instruction shall be to improve academic
4 readiness, individual development skills, and social skills. Prior to implementing
5 prekindergarten instruction, a city, parish, or other local public school board and the
6 governing authority of an approved nonpublic elementary school shall set forth a
7 statement of the needs the program is intended to address, the anticipated results, and
8 the basis upon which such results are expected, an outline of implementation steps,
9 a detailed plan for staff usage, a detailed budget, and a plan for evaluation of the
10 program results and an explanation thereof.

11 * * *

12 §222. Age of school entrance; proof of age, race, and parentage required; exceptions

13 * * *

14 ~~C.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections A and B of this Section~~
15 ~~and except as otherwise provided by Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, each city or~~
16 ~~parish school board, through the 1995-1996 school year, may adopt, by rule, and~~
17 ~~enforce ages for entrance into first grade in the schools in its system which vary from~~
18 ~~the provisions of this Section. All children admitted into school as a result of a rule~~
19 ~~adopted pursuant to this Subsection shall be counted in reports submitted for funding~~
20 ~~under the Minimum Foundation Program and money allocated pursuant to such~~
21 ~~program shall be based on the report which includes such children.~~

22 ~~(2) Beginning with the 1996-1997 school year and thereafter and except as~~
23 ~~otherwise provided by Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, each city and parish school~~
24 ~~board shall comply with the provisions of Subsection A of this Section relative to the~~
25 ~~age at which a child may enter the first grade of any public school at the beginning~~
26 ~~of the public school session.~~

27 ~~(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections A and B of this Section,~~
28 ~~the parish school boards in Jefferson and Orleans parishes may adopt, by rule, and~~
29 ~~enforce ages for entrance into first grade in the schools in its system their systems~~
30 ~~which vary from the provisions of this Section. All children admitted into school as~~

1 a result of a rule adopted pursuant to this Subsection shall be counted in reports
2 submitted for funding under the Minimum Foundation Program and money allocated
3 pursuant to such program shall be based on the report which includes such children.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____