

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. **4375**

03/11/2020 Authored by Pinto
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division
05/07/2020 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register as Amended
Pursuant to Joint Rule 2.03, re-referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration
05/11/2020 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register
Joint Rule 2.03 has been waived for any subsequent committee action on this bill
Read for the Second Time

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to early childhood; modifying provisions for age verification for admission
1.3 to public school, eligibility for early learning scholarships, and interagency early
1.4 intervention committees; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, sections 120A.20,
1.5 by adding a subdivision; 124D.165, subdivisions 3, 4; 125A.30.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 120A.20, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.8 to read:

1.9 Subd. 4. Verification of age for admission to public school. (a) Public schools may
1.10 request documentation that verifies a pupil falls within the school's minimum and maximum
1.11 age requirements for admission to publicly funded prekindergarten, preschool, kindergarten,
1.12 or grades 1 to 12. Documentation may include a passport, a hospital birth record or
1.13 physician's certificate, a baptismal or religious certificate, an adoption record, health records,
1.14 immunization records, immigration records, previously verified school records, early
1.15 childhood screening records, Minnesota Immunization Information Connection records, or
1.16 an affidavit from a parent.

1.17 (b) The school district or charter school must not deny a child from public school
1.18 enrollment solely because the child's parent or guardian is unable to provide a birth certificate
1.19 record.

1.20 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 124D.165, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.21 Subd. 3. **Administration.** (a) The commissioner shall establish application timelines
1.22 and determine the schedule for awarding scholarships that meets operational needs of eligible

families and programs. The commissioner must give highest priority to applications from children who:

(1) have a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school diploma or a course of study for a high school equivalency test;

(2) are in foster care or otherwise in need of protection or services; or

(3) have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months, as defined under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, United States Code, title 42, section 11434a.

The commissioner may prioritize applications on additional factors including family income, geographic location, and whether the child's family is on a waiting list for a publicly funded program providing early education or child care services.

(b) The commissioner shall establish a target for the average scholarship amount per child based on the results of the rate survey conducted under section 119B.02.

(c) A four-star rated program that has children eligible for a scholarship enrolled in or on a waiting list for a program beginning in July, August, or September may notify the commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, each year of the program's desire to enhance program services or to serve more children than current funding provides. The commissioner may designate a predetermined number of scholarship slots for that program and notify the program of that number. For fiscal year 2018 and later, the statewide amount of funding directly designated by the commissioner must not exceed the funding directly designated for fiscal year 2017. Beginning July 1, 2016, a school district or Head Start program qualifying under this paragraph may use its established registration process to enroll scholarship recipients and may verify a scholarship recipient's family income in the same manner as for other program participants.

(d) A scholarship is awarded for a 12-month period. If the scholarship recipient has not been accepted and subsequently enrolled in a rated program within ten months of the awarding of the scholarship, the scholarship cancels and the recipient must reapply in order to be eligible for another scholarship. A child may not be awarded more than one scholarship in a 12-month period.

(e) A child who receives a scholarship who has not completed development screening under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19 must complete that screening within 90 days of first attending an eligible program or within 90 days after the child's third birthday if awarded a scholarship under the age of three.

(f) For fiscal year 2017 and later, a school district or Head Start program enrolling scholarship recipients under paragraph (c) may apply to the commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, for direct payment of state aid. Upon receipt of the application, the commissioner must pay each program directly for each approved scholarship recipient enrolled under paragraph (c) according to the metered payment system or another schedule established by the commissioner.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 124D.165, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Early childhood program eligibility.** (a) In order to be eligible to accept an early learning scholarship, a program must:

(1) participate in the quality rating and improvement system under section 124D.142; and

(2) beginning July 1, 2020 when 40 percent of programs eligible for rating under section 124D.142 have received ratings, have a three- or four-star rating in the quality rating and improvement system.

(b) Any program accepting scholarships must use the revenue to supplement and not supplant federal funding.

~~(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), all Minnesota early learning foundation scholarship program pilot sites are eligible to accept an early learning scholarship under this section.~~

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 125A.30, is amended to read:

125A.30 INTERAGENCY EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEES.

(a) A group of school districts or special education cooperatives, in cooperation with the county and tribal health and human service agencies located in the county or counties in which the districts or cooperatives are located, must establish an Interagency Early Intervention Committee for children with disabilities under age five and their families under this section, and for children with disabilities ages three to 22 consistent with the requirements under sections 125A.023 and 125A.027. Committees must include representatives of local health, education, and county human service agencies, early childhood family education programs, Head Start, parents of young children with disabilities under age 12, child care resource and referral agencies, school readiness programs, current service providers, and agencies that serve families experiencing homelessness, and may also include representatives from other private or public agencies and school nurses. The committee must elect a chair from among its members and must meet at least quarterly.

4.1 (b) The committee must develop and implement interagency policies and procedures
4.2 concerning the following ongoing duties:

4.3 (1) develop public awareness systems designed to inform potential recipient families,
4.4 especially parents with premature infants, or infants with other physical risk factors associated
4.5 with learning or development complications, of available programs and services;

4.6 (2) to reduce families' need for future services, and especially parents with premature
4.7 infants, or infants with other physical risk factors associated with learning or development
4.8 complications, implement interagency child find systems designed to actively seek out,
4.9 identify, and refer infants and young children with, or at risk of, disabilities, including a
4.10 child under the age of three who: (i) is the subject of a substantiated case of abuse or neglect
4.11 or (ii) is identified as directly affected by illegal substance abuse, or withdrawal symptoms
4.12 resulting from prenatal drug exposure;

4.13 (3) implement a process for assuring that services involve cooperating agencies at all
4.14 steps leading to individualized programs;

4.15 (4) identify the current services and funding being provided within the community for
4.16 children with disabilities under age five and their families; and

4.17 (5) develop a plan for the allocation and expenditure of federal early intervention funds
4.18 under United States Code, title 20, section 1471 et seq. (Part C, Public Law 108-446) and
4.19 United States Code, title 20, section 631, et seq. (Chapter I, Public Law 89-313).

4.20 (c) The local committee shall also participate in needs assessments and program planning
4.21 activities conducted by local social service, health and education agencies for young children
4.22 with disabilities and their families.