

(SENATE AUTHORS: PEDERSON, Michel, Bakk, Stumpf and Olson)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/17/2011	547	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education

1.1A bill for an act

1.2relating to education; providing for coordination of early childhood services and

1.3programs to achieve full kindergarten readiness for all Minnesota children by

1.42020; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 119A.

1.5BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6Section 1. [119A.035] COORDINATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

1.7AND PROGRAMS.

1.8(a) The commissioner, through an assistant commissioner designated by the

1.9commissioner and in consultation with the Children's Cabinet under section 4.045, must

1.10ensure that early childhood services and programs provided or administered by state

1.11agencies achieve the desired outcomes under this section in an efficient and effective

1.12manner that avoids duplication and maximizes use of available funds, with the goal of

1.13having all children entering kindergarten fully ready by 2020, consistent with sections

1.14124D.141 and 124D.142. The commissioner must work to develop a comprehensive

1.15framework for delivering early childhood care and education premised on accountability

1.16for measurable and sustained progress, sustained and coordinated policy and funding

1.17leadership, and a strong and coordinated network of services and programs to support

1.18parents in their role as their children's primary educator. The outcomes under this section,

1.19among other outcomes, must include:

1.20(1) aligning state budget allocations and nonstate and nonpublic funds with programs

1.21and services needed to have all children entering kindergarten fully ready by 2020;

1.22(2) establishing an annual statewide report card as an accountability framework

1.23to assess provider effectiveness and report progress on meeting the goal of having all

children entering kindergarten fully ready by 2020, and to inform decisions about short- and long-term funding, new initiatives, regulations, and training; and

(3) expanding a quality rating and improvement system statewide.

(b) Upon request of the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of human services and the commissioner of health, and approval of the governor, the commissioner of administration, consistent with paragraph (a), must:

(1) issue reorganization orders under authority of section 16B.37, subdivision 1, transferring functions among the Departments of Education, Human Services, Health, and other agencies, as necessary to improve efficiency and avoid duplication in administering early childhood programs; and

(2) direct an agency or an agency employee to do work for another agency, under authority of section 16B.37, subdivisions 2 and 3, for the purpose of improving administration of early childhood services and programs.

(c) The commissioner, under this section, may transfer responsibility and funding for a federally funded program to another agency unless federal law requires the program to be administered by a particular agency, in which case such a transfer is prohibited.

(d) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioners of human services and health and other affected agency directors, on an as-needed basis, must make recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of legislative committees with jurisdiction over education, human services, and health policy and finance for statutory changes needed to improve state agency administration of early childhood programs, consistent with paragraph (a).

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.