



State of Tennessee
PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 991

HOUSE BILL NO. 2566

By Representatives Casada, Haynes, Hall, Alexander

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2630

By Senator Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to age for school attendance.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-201(b)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(3) Children entering kindergarten shall be five (5) years of age on or before August 31 for the 2013-2014 school year and on or before August 15 for all school years thereafter;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001(a), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) The public schools shall be free to all persons residing within the state who are above five (5) years of age or who will become five (5) years of age on or before August 31 for the 2013-2014 school year and on or before August 15 for all school years thereafter;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001(b)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b)

(1) Any child residing within the state who is five (5) years of age or who will become five (5) years of age on or before August 31 for the 2013-2014 school year and on or before August 15 for all school years thereafter may enter at the beginning of the term the public school designated by the local board of education having appropriate jurisdiction; provided, that the child enters within thirty (30) days after the opening day of the term.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001(b)(2), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (A) and by adding the following language as a new subdivision (B):

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(2)(A), if the director of schools finds through evaluation and testing, at the request of the parent or legal guardian, that a child who is five (5) years of age on or before September 30 is sufficiently mature emotionally and academically, then the child may be permitted to enter kindergarten.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3001, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (d):

(d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, children who participate in an LEA-administered pre-kindergarten program during the 2012-2013 or 2013-2014 school years may enter kindergarten in the 2013-2014 or 2014-2015 school years respectively,

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect October 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: APRIL 26, 2012


BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 10th day of May 2012


BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR