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H.B. 114*
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by Senate Education

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Bird and Ritter

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SUMMARY

- Requires public schools to admit to kindergarten any child who will be five years old or, if the child has not completed first grade, six years old, by the first day of instruction of the school year of admittance.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to review the scores on the 2024-2025 biology end-of-course exam to determine which students were affected by a scoring error and to increase those students' scores accordingly.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Kindergarten minimum age requirement

The bill revises the minimum age requirements for admission to kindergarten for school districts, community schools, and STEM schools. Under current law, each district or school that admits all students to kindergarten in August or September must admit students who are five by September 30 of the year of admittance. However, current law also permits a district to adopt a resolution to establish August 1, instead of September 30, as the required date by which a student must be five to enroll in kindergarten. For a district or school that permits enrollment in kindergarten at the beginning of a semester or term other than one beginning in August or September, current law requires the district or school to admit a student who is five by the first day of instruction of the term or semester of admittance.

The bill instead requires all districts and schools to admit to kindergarten any child who is five years old by the first day of instruction of the school year of admittance and any child who (1) is six years old by the first day of instruction and (2) has not yet completed first grade. Further,

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Education Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

the bill eliminates the option for a district to adopt a resolution to instead establish August 1 as the date by which a student must be five to enroll in kindergarten.¹

Biology exam scoring correction

The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce to review the scores of students who took the biology end-of-course exam during the 2024-2025 school year to determine which students were affected by an error in the scoring of a single, one-point question on that exam. For any student who would have achieved a higher score on the exam had the question been scored correctly, the Department must increase the student's score accordingly. The bill prohibits the Department from decreasing a student's score on the exam due to the scoring error.

If the increase in a student's score qualifies the student for a science seal or an honors diploma seal, the bill requires the school district or school in which the student was enrolled during the 2024-2025 school year to award the applicable seal on the student's diploma.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-18-25
Reported, H. Education	05-14-25
Passed House (96-0)	05-21-25
Reported, S. Education	---

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¹ R.C. 3321.01(A). See also R.C. 3314.03(A)(11)(d) and 3326.11, neither of which are in the bill.

² Section 3.