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H.B. 114
136th General Assembly

Final Analysis

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Primary Sponsors: Reps. Bird and Ritter

Effective date: March 20, 2026

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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 address a scoring error on the 2024-2025 biology end-of-course exam, including by increasing the scores of students negatively affected by it.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Kindergarten minimum age requirement

The act revises the minimum age requirements for admission to kindergarten for school districts, community schools, and STEM schools.

Specifically, the act 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. Prior law required a district or school to admit all students to kindergarten who are five by September 30 of the year of admittance. Prior law also provided an alternative option, eliminated by the act, that allowed 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 act 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

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

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 act 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 or Honors Diploma Seal, the act requires the district or school in which the student was enrolled during the 2024-2025 school year to award the 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	11-18-25
Passed Senate (29-4)	11-19-25
House concurred in Senate amendments (87-0)	11-19-25

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² Section 3.