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BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Bill 492 (Substitute S-1 as reported by the Committee of the Whole)
Sponsor: Senator Bruce Caswell
Committee: Education

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to apply kindergarten age enrollment requirements to children who are not residents of a school district, but are eligible to attend under the State School Aid Act.

Under the Code, a parent may enroll his or her child in kindergarten if the child is five years old by a certain date, depending on the school year. Currently, the date is December 1. For the 2014-2015 school year, the cutoff date will be October 1, 2014. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the cutoff date will be September 1 of the school year of enrollment.

The Code provides an exception to the age requirement if a child residing in the school district will be five years old by December 1 of a school year. In that case, a parent may enroll his or her child if the parent gives written notice to the school district by June 1 before the beginning of the school year. If a child becomes a resident of the school district after June 1, the deadline for the written notice is August 1 before the school year begins.

The bill would extend this exception to a child who was eligible to enroll in and be counted in membership in the school district under Section 105 or 105c of the State School Aid Act. (Those sections contain provisions for enrolling a child in a school district in which the child does not reside.) The bill would delete the June 1 and August 1 deadlines, and instead require that a parent or legal guardian notify the school district in writing that he or she intends to enroll the child in kindergarten for that school year.

MCL 380.1147

Legislative Analyst: Glenn Steffens

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government because an amendment to the School Aid Act (in Public Act 130 of 2013) allows any child not meeting the age eligibility under this section of the School Code (Section 1147) to enroll in kindergarten if the child will turn five years old by December 1 and if the parents give notice to the enrolling school district. Therefore, the amendment to the School Aid Act effectively will provide for the enrollment of, and subsequent payment for, such students attending kindergarten, and the changes in S.B. 492 (S-1) mirror the corresponding amendments already enacted under Public Act 130.

Date Completed: 10-16-13

Fiscal Analyst: Kathryn Summers

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