



February 7, 2020

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Changes, from August 15<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, the date by which children entering kindergarten must be five years of age each year. Changes from August 15<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> the date by which a person must be five years of age in this state to be eligible for free public school for the 2021-22 school year and subsequent years. Changes, from September 30<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>, the date by which a child who is five years of age may enter kindergarten if the director of schools, through evaluation and testing, finds that the child is sufficiently mature emotionally and academically.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – The proposed legislation may impact student enrollment in kindergarten classrooms throughout the state, which may shift the amount of funds generated by the Basic Education Program (BEP) from FY22-23 to FY23-24.**

**Actual expenditures will decrease in FY21-22 due to decreased enrollment; these expenditures will shift to FY22-23. Due to multiple unknown factors the precise impact to state and local expenditures cannot reasonably be determined.**

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation may decrease enrollment for kindergarten students in the 2021-22 school year and increase enrollment in the 2022-23 school year; however, that number is expected to be offset in subsequent years such that the impact to kindergarten class size will not be significant.
- The proposed legislation may increase the number of voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK) classrooms needed to serve children with summer birthdates that are not eligible to enroll in kindergarten.
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-107 requires that VPK programs are subject to annual appropriations. However, because additional funding has not been appropriated to expand the VPK program, enrollment would continue to limit the number of students that can be served.
- Student enrollment is measured by average daily membership (ADM) and is the primary driver of funds generated by the BEP for the following fiscal year, the funding formula

through which state education dollars are generated and distributed to Tennessee schools.

- Decreasing enrollment in FY21-22 and increasing enrollment in FY22-23 may lead to a shift in funding from FY22-23 to FY23-24; the net impact over the two year period is not significant.
- Actual expenditures will decrease in FY21-22 due to decreased enrollment; these expenditures will shift to FY22-23. Due to multiple unknown factors, including the extent and distribution of kindergarten enrollment changes across schools the precise impact to state and local expenditures cannot reasonably be determined.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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