

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

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TO: SENATOR RICH CRANDALL

DATE: March 27, 2012

SUBJECT: House Changes to S.B. 1256 - collective bargaining agreements; teachers; transfers
(NOW: preschool programs; charter schools)

As passed the Senate, S.B. 1256 adds requirements for school district policies relating to teacher transfers.

The House of Representatives adopted a strike everything amendment that does the following:

Purpose

Expands preschool programs for children with disabilities to charter schools.

Background

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 15-771 requires each school district to make available an educational program for preschool children with disabilities (Program) who reside in the school district and who are not already receiving services that have been provided through the Department of Education (ADE). The State Board of Education (SBE) is required to prescribe rules regarding Programs for use by school districts. Only those preschool children who meet the definition of the following conditions may count for the purposes of calculating average daily membership:

1. Hearing impairment;
2. Visual impairment;
3. Developmental delay;
4. Preschool severe delay; and
5. Speech/language impairment.

SBE is required to prescribe rules and annually distribute to school districts at least ten percent of the federal funding it receives for Programs. The governing board of a school district may submit a proposal to SBE to receive funding for Programs. A school district may not admit a child to a Program unless the child is evaluated and recommended for placement. *Preschool child* is defined as a child who is at least three years of age but who has not reached the age required for kindergarten, though the governing board of a school district may admit otherwise eligible children who are within ninety days of their third birthday if it is determined to be in the best interest of the individual child.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

HOUSE CHANGES MEMO

S.B. 1256

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Provisions

1. Allows a charter school to choose to provide a Program.
2. Specifies that children with disabilities in a Program must meet the definition of one or more specified conditions and only children with these conditions may be included in the charter school's average daily membership.
3. Permits the appropriate approving body of a charter school to submit a proposal to SBE for Program funding.
4. Requires the SBE to annually distribute at least ten percent of the federal funding it receives for Programs to charter schools that choose to provide a Program.
5. Adds that a charter school may not admit a child to a Program unless the child is evaluated and recommended for placement.
6. Allows the appropriate approving body of a charter school to admit otherwise eligible children who are within ninety days of their third birthday to a Program.
7. Makes technical and conforming changes.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Adopted the strike everything amendment.

Senate Action

ED	1/24/12	DP	6-2-0
3 rd Read	1/27/12		21-9-0-0

House Action

ED	3/12/12	DPA/SE	6-2-0-2
3 rd Read	3/27/12		41-14-5-0

LL/NF/ly

cc: All Senators