

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued
FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote: 4 - 1 - 0
Yeas: Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker
Nays: Kruse
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 1/30, 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Lowers minimum age for required school attendance to six. Requires State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding entering student placement. Applies at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Grade placement of students
- Parent choice
- Increased costs
- Leverage for enforcing school attendance
- Benefit of holding six-year-olds out of school
- Proper age to begin mandating attendance

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to ensure grade placement for entering six-year-olds is appropriate to their cognitive development.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the minimum age for required school attendance is seven years of age. Eight other states mandate education at age 5; twenty-four states mandate education at age 6; eighteen states mandate education at age 7 or higher. It is not known exactly how many additional students would be in classrooms at age 6 that are not already attending public schools at this time.