

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Education****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/15/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways
And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 04/10, 04/15**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Doherty, Frederick, Hack, McLain, Piluso, Reardon, Sprenger, Wilson

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Early Learning Division to administer preschool program. Prescribes requirements of program. Requires biennial report to Legislative Assembly. Directs Early Learning Council (ELC) to establish minimum salary requirements for preschool teachers, and to develop strategies to increase the mean salary for lead preschool teachers. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value of investments in early learning; each \$1.00 investment estimated to yield \$8.60 return
- Value of high-quality preschool teachers
- Particular need among traditionally underserved students and students in poverty for early learning programs
- Demonstrated link between early childhood education programs and increased chance of attaining high school and college degrees, as well as decreased likelihood of incarceration
- Investments in early learning contrasted with “tough on crime” legislation; high cost, and low value, of increasing prison populations.
- Value of smart, skilled workers to businesses statewide

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Changes 60% salary requirement for lead preschool teachers to minimum salary requirements established by ELC. Directs ELC to establish minimum salary requirements for preschool teachers, and to develop strategies to increase the mean salary for lead preschool teachers.

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Council was created by Senate Bill 909 (2011), with further direction by House Bill 4165 (2012). House Bill 2013 (2013) specifically directed the ELC to create sixteen regional and community-based Early Learning Hubs in order to support early childhood development, particularly for families of historically underserved communities. House Bill 3380-A directs the Early Learning Division to administer a preschool program.