

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 78

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Version: As Introduced

Authors: Morrow and others

Subject: Voluntary, Full-Day Kindergarten

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Overview

Minnesota currently provides funding for half-day kindergarten by counting each kindergarten student as .557 pupil units.

HF 78 increases the kindergarten pupil weight from .557 to 1.0 beginning in FY 2008 for any student that attends kindergarten in a full-day program. The bill is voluntary; it does not require a school district to offer full-day kindergarten, and it does not require parents to send their children to full-day kindergarten programs. This bill has a net revenue cost of about \$137 million per year, assuming all students attend full-day kindergarten programs.

Section

- 1 Elementary pupils.** Increases nonpublic pupil aid by counting nonpublic full-day kindergarten students as a full, instead of one-half student for funding purposes.
- 2 Pupil Unit.** Raises the pupil weighting for a student who participates in a full-day kindergarten program from .557 to 1.0 pupil units beginning in FY 2008.
- 3 Learning Year Pupil Units.** Clarifies that in order to qualify as an extended time student (and generate extra funding through an extended time program), a kindergarten pupil in a full-day program must first receive at least 850 hours of instruction.
- 4 Additional revenue uses; class size reduction program.** Eliminates full-day kindergarten as an option for a district to fund if the district has achieved class size ratios of 17 to 1 in kindergarten through third grade.

Section

- 5** **Reallocating General Education Revenue.** Authorizes a school district to spend any money saved when 12th graders graduate early on early education programs including school readiness and early childhood family education programs.
- 6** **Repealer; First Grade Preparedness Program.** Repeals the first grade preparedness program (this program provides full-day kindergarten funding for certain elementary schools that serve predominately low-income students).