

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 597

DATE: February 7, 2007

Version: As Introduced

Authors: Brown and others

Subject: Voluntary, Full-Day Kindergarten Phased-in Over 4 Years

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Overview

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

HF 597 phases in funding for full-day kindergarten over a four-year period. The kindergarten pupil weight is increased to .65 for FY 2008, .75 for FY 2009, .90 for FY 2010, and 1.0 for FY 2011 and later. Districts receive the added pupil weight regardless of the type of kindergarten program the students are in. 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 revenue cost of about \$30 million in FY 2008, \$62 million in FY 2009, \$110 million in FY 2010, and \$143 million for FY 2011 and later.

Section

- 1 Pupil Unit.** Raises the pupil weighting for all kindergarten pupils to .65 for FY 08, .75 for FY 09, .90 for FY 2010, and 1.0 for FY 2011 and later.
- 2 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.
- 3 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

Section

kindergarten through third grade.

- 4** **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.