

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 821  
**Version:** As Introduced

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**Authors:** Bernardy and others

**Subject:** Authorizing Funding for Voluntary Full-Day Kindergarten

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### Overview

Minnesota Statutes requires that all school districts offer kindergarten, but districts may offer a variety of different programs. Fifty-four percent of Minnesota's public school children attend full-day every-day kindergarten; 29 percent attend half-day programs or every other day programs; and the remaining 17 percent attend a free half-day program coupled with a fee-based program for the other portion of the school day.

Minnesota includes kindergarten pupils in the pupil counts used to generate school funding, and each of Minnesota's 59,000 public kindergarten pupils currently counts as .612 pupils in average daily membership.

This bill increases the kindergarten pupil weighting to 1.115 (the same pupil weighting assigned to students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) for any kindergarten pupil who attends an all-day every-day kindergarten program. Kindergarten pupils who continue to attend a half-day program would continue to be counted as .612 pupils. The total revenue effect of this bill is roughly \$185 million per year.

### Section

- 1 Elementary pupils; nonpublic aid.** Counts full-day kindergarten pupils in the nonpublic pupil aid formula as 1.0 pupils and half-day kindergarten pupils as .5 pupils.
- 2 Pupil unit.** Increases the pupil weight for kindergarten pupils who attend full-day kindergarten programs from .612 to 1.115, beginning in fiscal year 2015.

**Section**

- 3**      **Learning year pupil units.** Adjusts the hours of service used to calculate learning year pupil units to reflect the new kindergarten pupil weights.
- 4**      **Additional revenue use.** Removes all-day every-day kindergarten from the list of authorized uses of class size reduction revenue.
- 5**      **Use of general education revenue for all-day kindergarten and prekindergarten.** A school district may spend general education revenue on extended-time kindergarten and prekindergarten programs. Allows a school district that determines it is meeting the needs of the community for voluntary, full-day kindergarten, to use revenue generated by the full-day kindergarten pupil count for prekindergarten programs.