

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 311

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1
2 RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-201, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR A
3 PILOT PROJECT WHEREBY A CHILD WITH HIGHLY ADVANCED ABILITIES MAY START
4 KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE AT A YOUNGER AGE, AND A FIVE-YEAR-OLD CHILD
5 WHO HAS COMPLETED 450 HOURS OF PRIVATE OR PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN MAY START
6 FIRST GRADE AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND PROVIDING A SUNSET
7 DATE.

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 SECTION 1. That Section 33-201, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
10 amended to read as follows:

11 33-201. SCHOOL AGE. The services of the public schools of this state
12 are extended to any acceptable person of school age. "School age" is defined
13 as including all persons resident of the state, between the ages of five (5)
14 and twenty-one (21) years. For the purposes of this section, the age of five
15 (5) years shall be attained when the fifth anniversary of birth occurs on or
16 before the first day of September of the school year in which the child is to
17 enroll in kindergarten, except that a child who has highly advanced abili-
18 ties, as determined by the local school district where scores are three (3)
19 standard deviations above the mean, may start at a younger age. For a child
20 enrolling in the first grade, the age of six (6) years must be reached on or
21 before the first day of September of the school year in which the child is to
22 enroll, except that a child who has highly advanced abilities, as determined
23 by the local school district where scores are three (3) standard deviations
24 above the mean, may start at a younger age. This provision to allow early
25 entrance for high-ability learners shall begin as a statewide pilot program
26 beginning in September 2017. After two (2) years, a report shall be given to
27 the legislature on the number of students granted early entrance with suc-
28 cess rates. Any child of the age of five (5) years who has completed a pri-
29 vate or public ~~out-of-state~~ kindergarten for the required four hundred fifty
30 (450) hours but has not reached the "school age" requirement in Idaho shall
31 be allowed to enter the first grade.

32 For resident children with disabilities who qualify for special educa-
33 tion and related services under the federal individuals with disabilities
34 education act (IDEA) and subsequent amendments thereto, and applicable
35 state and federal regulations, "school age" shall begin at the attainment
36 of age three (3) years and shall continue through the semester of school in
37 which the student attains the age of twenty-one (21) years.

38 SECTION 2. The provisions of Section 1 of this act shall be null, void
39 and of no force and effect on and after September 1, 2022.