

[As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole]

As Amended by Senate Committee

Session of 2007

SENATE BILL No. 384

By Committee on Ways and Means

3-19

12 AN ACT concerning early childhood education services.

13

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

15 Section 1. (a) The legislative educational planning committee in col-
16 laboration with the 2010 commission shall study and make recommen-
17 dations relating to early childhood education. The committee and com-
18 mission shall:

19 (1) Develop a coordinated, comprehensive system for the delivery of
20 early childhood education services;

21 (2) identify priorities for early childhood education services;

22 (3) identify barriers to service and gaps in service due to strict defi-
23 nition of boundaries between departments and agencies;

24 (4) facilitate interagency and interdepartmental cooperation toward
25 the common goal of serving children;

26 (5) investigate and identify methodologies for the combining of funds
27 across departmental boundaries to better serve children;

28 (6) propose actions needed to achieve coordination of funding and
29 services across departmental lines;

30 (7) encourage and facilitate joint planning and coordination between
31 the public and private sectors to better serve the needs of children;

32 (8) determine whether a centralized internet-based reporting system
33 would provide a more efficient and effective system to comply with re-
34 porting requirements imposed by law;

35 (9) make recommendations relating to the design of a universal ap-
36 plication form and single point of access for families in need of early
37 childhood education services;

38 (10) evaluate and report on the performance and cost effectiveness
39 of early childhood education services and make recommendations nec-
40 essary to ensure that private entities and public agencies are accountable
41 for the progress of children and that such services produce high quality
42 opportunities for children;

43 (11) make recommendations to improve communication with local

1 agencies which provide early childhood education services in order to
2 keep such local agencies informed of the availability of state and federal
3 moneys for early childhood education services and make recommenda-
4 tions to assist such local agencies in obtaining such state and federal mon-
5 eys and the utilization of such moneys so as to avoid waste and abuse;

6 (12) conduct hearings to receive a wide variety of input from individ-
7 uals and groups affected by and concerned with the quality, efficiency
8 and cost of early childhood education services; and

9 (13) ~~prepare a plan for the transfer of the powers and duties of the~~
10 ~~state department of social and rehabilitation services, state department~~
11 ~~of education, Kansas department of health and environment, Kansas chil-~~
12 ~~children's cabinet, juvenile justice authority and any other state agency re-~~
13 ~~lating to the administration of early childhood education services to the~~
14 ~~office of early childhood education services. The plan shall provide that~~
15 ~~the transfer of powers and duties shall occur on or before January 1, 2009.~~
16 ~~The plan shall recommend whether or not the office of early childhood~~
17 ~~education services should be an independent state agency or within an~~
18 ~~existing state agency and if so, which existing state agency. [prepare a~~
19 ~~plan which recommends the establishment by January 1, 2009, of~~
20 ~~the office of early childhood education and the manner in which~~
21 ~~such office should be structured.]~~

22 (b) *For the purposes of conducting the study required by sub-*
23 *section (a), the commissioner of education, the secretary of the Kan-*
24 *sas department of health and environment, the secretary of the state*
25 *department of social and rehabilitation services and the executive*
26 *director of the Kansas children's cabinet shall be ex officio members*
27 *of the legislative educational planning committee and the 2010*
28 *commission.*

29 ~~(b) (c)~~ (c) On or before December 31, 2007, the legislative educational
30 planning committee shall submit a report of its activities to the governor
31 and the legislature. Such report shall include the recommendations
32 adopted by the committee and the 2010 commission and a copy of the
33 plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (13) of subsection (a). The report
34 shall include recommendations for changes in the law which are necessary
35 to implement such recommendations and plan.

36 ~~—Sec. 2.—State and local agencies which provide preschool at-risk ed-~~
37 ~~ucation services shall enter into memoranda of understanding under~~
38 ~~which such agencies will develop consistent strategies for informing par-~~
39 ~~ents of the programs for which they are eligible, and to coordinate the~~
40 ~~referral of families to the education services which are most appropriate~~
41 ~~for their needs.~~

42 ~~—Sec. 3.—State and local agencies which provide home visitation pro-~~
43 ~~grams shall enter into memoranda of understanding under which, such~~

1 ~~agencies will (a) design a universal application form to be used by such~~
2 ~~agencies to determine eligibility of families for services and for the re-~~
3 ~~ferral of families to the early childhood education services which are most~~
4 ~~appropriate for their needs and (b) collaborate to develop and imple-~~
5 ~~ment a common training plan.~~
6 ~~—Sec. 4. (a) The state board of education shall develop and implement~~
7 ~~an alternative or provisional license for preschool teachers. No person~~
8 ~~shall qualify for an alternative or provisional license under this subsection,~~
9 ~~unless such person holds a valid license in the field of education other~~
10 ~~than as a preschool teacher. The alternative certification program shall~~
11 ~~include opportunities for distance education.~~
12 ~~—(b) The alternative certification program shall be reviewed at least~~
13 ~~once every five years to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.~~
14 ~~—(c) The state board of education shall establish program goals and~~
15 ~~objectives for high quality preschool programs.~~
16 ~~—(d) The state board of education shall provide professional develop-~~
17 ~~ment opportunities to teachers and administrators of preschool education~~
18 ~~programs.~~
19 ~~—(e) The state board of education shall assist with the development of~~
20 ~~self-study and self-evaluation processes and the development of improve-~~
21 ~~ment plans for preschool education programs.~~
22 ~~—Sec. 5. When expending moneys appropriated for early childhood~~
23 ~~education services, the department of education shall give first priority to~~
24 ~~community-based programs which provide early childhood education~~
25 ~~services which did not receive moneys in the preceding fiscal year.~~
26 ~~—As used in this section, “moneys” means 20% of that amount of moneys~~
27 ~~appropriated for fiscal year 2008 which exceeds the amount of moneys~~
28 ~~appropriated for fiscal year 2007.~~
29 ~~Sec. 6. 2.~~ This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
30 publication in the statute book.