

HB 951 -- Early Intervention Services for Children

Sponsor: Faith

Currently, when children who receive early intervention services reach three years of age, they move from Part C to Part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, administered by the local school district. This bill requires school districts to continue the services of a child's Part C provider upon the parent's request and if the cost is no more than what the district would charge for the services. The reporting requirements and deadlines for the requests are specified. The parent may furnish and the initial individualized education program team may consider any outside evaluation information during the team meeting. The bill also exempts the state's early intervention services for children, known as First Steps, from the sunset provisions.

The bill creates pilot programs in the southwest and greater St. Louis points of entry. The southwest area program requires the system to hire, by January 1, 2008, one or more providers of early intervention services, either directly or through contract with sheltered workshop boards. The greater St. Louis program allows the regional interagency coordinating council to hire, by January 1, 2008, a child-find coordinator. A study of the programs must be completed by September 1, 2009, and the programs will expire September 1, 2010. The Part C Early Intervention Pilot Program Fund is created in the state treasury for implementing the pilot programs.