

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 920

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES DUNN (Sponsor), MIMS, OTTO, ELLINGTON, MAYFIELD,
RUNIONS AND ENGLISH (Co-sponsors).

2178L.01I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 163, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to early childhood education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 163, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 163.019, to read as follows:

163.019. 1. The provisions of this section shall be known and referred to as the
2 **"Missouri Early Childhood Education Act".**

3 **2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, children who are at least four years**
4 **of age but not more than five years of age on or before August first and who have not**
5 **attended a public school kindergarten shall be entitled to attend half-day or full-day early**
6 **childhood education programs at any public school in the state where such programs are**
7 **offered, provided no child shall be required to attend any early childhood education**
8 **program.**

9 **3. Children meeting the age requirement of subsection 2 of this section shall be**
10 **entitled to attend either half-day or full-day early childhood programs in their district of**
11 **residence free of charge as long as the district has the physical facilities and teaching**
12 **personnel to accommodate the child. Pupils attending a program under the provisions of**
13 **this section shall be included in the resident district's calculation of average daily**
14 **attendance.**

15 **4. Children meeting the age requirement of subsection 2 of this section who reside**
16 **in a district where no early childhood program is offered shall be eligible for transfer to**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended
to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 a district in which an early childhood education program is offered if the district offering
18 the early childhood program agrees to the transfer. A district offering early childhood
19 programs may refuse to accept a nonresident child if the child does not meet the age
20 requirement of subsection 2 of this section or if the district does not have the physical
21 facilities or teaching personnel to accommodate the child in an early childhood education
22 class. Children who are accepted into a program outside of the child's resident district as
23 provided in this subsection shall be entitled to attend such program free of charge and shall
24 be included in the nonresident district's calculation of average daily attendance.

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