

HB 654 -- GOVERNING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

SPONSOR: Byrnes

This bill defines "a young child with a developmental disability" for the purposes of providing special educational services under the requirements of federal law. Such a child is:

- (1) At least three years old but not older than nine years of age;
- (2) Experiencing developmental delays, as measured by appropriate evaluative instruments and procedures, in one or more of the areas specified in the bill; and
- (3) In need of special educational and related services.

The bill provides that children whose age makes them eligible for kindergarten or first grade may continue their eligibility as a young child with a developmental delay if the child had been categorized as such before attaining age nine

This bill additionally provides that the category of "young child with a developmental delay" will not be used to determine continuing eligibility for a student who is nine years of age before August 1st of a given school year.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 2696 (2024).