

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2571

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DUNN.

6486H.011

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 163.026, to read as follows:

3 **163.026. 1. The provisions of this section shall be known and referred to as the**
4 **"Missouri Early Childhood Education Act".**

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

11 **3. Children meeting the age requirement of subsection 2 of this section shall be**
12 **entitled to attend either half-day or full-day early childhood programs in their district of**
13 **residence free of charge as long as the district has the physical facilities and teaching**
14 **personnel to accommodate the child. Notwithstanding the definition of "average daily**
15 **attendance" under section 163.011 to the contrary, pupils attending a program under the**
16 **provisions of this section shall be included in the resident district's calculation of average**
daily attendance and shall not be counted for purposes of determining whether the district
has exceeded the four-percent cap described under subsection 1 of section 163.018.

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 **4. Children meeting the age requirement of subsection 2 of this section who reside**
18 **in a district where no early childhood education program is offered shall be eligible for**
19 **transfer to a district in which an early childhood education program is offered if the**
20 **district offering the early childhood education program agrees to the transfer. A district**
21 **offering early childhood education programs may refuse to accept a nonresident child if**
22 **the child does not meet the age requirement of subsection 2 of this section or if the district**
23 **does not have the physical facilities or teaching personnel to accommodate the child in an**
24 **early childhood education class. Children who are accepted into a program outside of the**
25 **child's resident district as provided in this subsection shall be entitled to attend such**
26 **program free of charge and shall be included in the nonresident district's calculation of**
27 **average daily attendance in the same manner as children who reside in the district.**

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