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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 3464

February 25, 2008

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on E-12 Education

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; providing funding for universal preschool for four-year-old
1.3 students; amending Minnesota Statutes 2007 Supplement, section 126C.05,
1.4 subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter
1.5 124D.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. [124D.165] UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLD
1.8 STUDENTS.

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Child eligibility.** (a) A child who is at least four years old on
1.10 September 1 of that year and not yet enrolled in kindergarten is eligible to participate in
1.11 Minnesota's universal preschool program.

1.12 (b) A child who is between birth to age three is eligible to participate in the program
1.13 as funding allows.

1.14 Subd. 2. **Revenue.** A child who is eligible for universal preschool under subdivision
1.15 1 may enroll in any qualifying child care or preschool program.

1.16 Subd. 3. **Qualifying preschool program.** (a) A school district, child care, or
1.17 preschool program that meets the following qualifications may provide preschool services
1.18 and enroll eligible children:

1.19 (1) programs must have a total class size of no more than 18 students and a child to
1.20 adult ratio of nine to one;

1.21 (2) programs must meet a minimum of two and one-half hours per day, four days
1.22 per week;

1.23 (3) curriculum and learning standards must be aligned between the preschool
1.24 programs and kindergartens;

2.1 (4) programs must employ necessary qualified teachers, by 2012 50 percent of the
 2.2 teachers employed by a program to teach preschool must be licensed in early childhood
 2.3 education or be rated a three or four by the Quality Rating System;

2.4 (5) programs must have a strong accountability system with documented learning
 2.5 standards, and must be highly rated by the Quality Rating System;

2.6 (6) each child must be assessed at program entrance and again at program exit;

2.7 (7) programs must offer comprehensive family services including developmental,
 2.8 behavioral, and health screening;

2.9 (8) programs must offer compensatory services in language, literacy, and
 2.10 mathematical thinking in a developmentally appropriate manner; and

2.11 (9) programs must develop collaborative partnerships with school-based early
 2.12 childhood programs, kindergarten teachers and other school officials, Head Start programs,
 2.13 and community-based child care programs.

2.14 (b) Qualified preschool programs may include preschool programs operated by
 2.15 school districts, private preschool programs, Head Start programs, and child care programs
 2.16 with an educational component.

2.17 Subd. 4. **Payment.** (a) A school district may contract with qualifying programs
 2.18 to provide preschool services for eligible children. At least percent of preschool
 2.19 students must be served by nondistrict operated programs. A district may establish a new
 2.20 program where no existing reasonably accessible program meets the requirements in
 2.21 subdivision 3. Districts must submit a copy of each contract to the commissioner. The
 2.22 payment from the school district for a child enrolled for the full year must not exceed the
 2.23 basic general education formula allowance for that year.

2.24 (b) percent of the total appropriation for the universal preschool program must
 2.25 be set aside to serve children ages birth to three. The payment from the school district
 2.26 for a child enrolled for the full year must not exceed the basic general education formula
 2.27 allowance for that year.

2.28 (c) A qualified program that offers additional services including home visits, parent
 2.29 supports, social services, and health referrals for the most at-risk children may receive a
 2.30 bonus in the amount of ten percent of the per child payment rate for each child served.

2.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2009.

2.32 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2007 Supplement, section 126C.05, subdivision 1, is
 2.33 amended to read:

2.34 Subdivision 1. **Pupil unit.** Pupil units for each Minnesota resident pupil under the
 2.35 age of 21 or who meets the requirements of section 120A.20, subdivision 1, paragraph (c),

3.1 in average daily membership enrolled in the district of residence, in another district under
3.2 sections 123A.05 to 123A.08, 124D.03, 124D.08, or 124D.68; in a charter school under
3.3 section 124D.10; or for whom the resident district pays tuition under section 123A.18,
3.4 123A.22, 123A.30, 123A.32, 123A.44, 123A.488, 123B.88, subdivision 4, 124D.04,
3.5 124D.05, 125A.03 to 125A.24, 125A.51, or 125A.65, shall be counted according to this
3.6 subdivision.

3.7 (a) A prekindergarten pupil with a disability who is enrolled in a program approved
3.8 by the commissioner and has an individual education plan is counted as the ratio of the
3.9 number of hours of assessment and education service to 825 times 1.25 with a minimum
3.10 average daily membership of 0.28, but not more than 1.25 pupil units.

3.11 (b) A prekindergarten pupil who is assessed but determined not to be disabled is
3.12 counted as the ratio of the number of hours of assessment service to 825 times 1.25.

3.13 (c) A kindergarten pupil with a disability who is enrolled in a program approved
3.14 by the commissioner is counted as the ratio of the number of hours of assessment and
3.15 education services required in the fiscal year by the pupil's individual education program
3.16 plan to 875, but not more than one.

3.17 (d) A kindergarten pupil who is not included in paragraph (c) is counted as .612
3.18 pupil units.

3.19 (e) A pupil who is in any of grades 1 to 3 is counted as 1.115 pupil units for fiscal
3.20 year 2000 and thereafter.

3.21 (f) A pupil who is any of grades 4 to 6 is counted as 1.06 pupil units for fiscal
3.22 year 1995 and thereafter.

3.23 (g) A pupil who is in any of grades 7 to 12 is counted as 1.3 pupil units.

3.24 (h) A pupil who is in the postsecondary enrollment options program is counted
3.25 as 1.3 pupil units.

3.26 (i) A pupil who is at least four years of age as of September 1 and not included in
3.27 paragraphs (a) through (h) is counted as 1.0 pupil units for purposes of section 126C.10,
3.28 subdivision 2, only.

3.29 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2009.