

HOUSE BILL No. 1478

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-20-38.

Synopsis: Commission for early learning and school readiness.
Creates the commission for early learning and school readiness.

Effective: July 1, 2009.

Porter

January 14, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures.

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First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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HOUSE BILL No. 1478



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-20-38 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2009]:

4 **Chapter 38. Indiana Commission for Early Learning and School**
5 **Readiness**

6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the**
7 **Indiana commission for early learning and school readiness**
8 **established by section 2 of this chapter.**

9 **Sec. 2. The Indiana commission for early learning and school**
10 **readiness is established.**

11 **Sec. 3. (a) The commission consists of the following individuals:**

12 **(1) Two (2) members of the senate appointed by the president**
13 **pro tempore of the senate. The members appointed under this**
14 **subdivision may not be members of the same political party.**

15 **(2) Two (2) members of the house of representatives**
16 **appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. The**
17 **members appointed under this subdivision may not be**



- 1 members of the same political party.
- 2 (3) The governor or the governor's designee.
- 3 (4) The state superintendent of public instruction or the
- 4 superintendent's designee.
- 5 (5) The budget director or the budget director's designee.
- 6 (6) The secretary of family and social services or the
- 7 secretary's designee.
- 8 (7) The commissioner of the state department of health or the
- 9 commissioner's designee.
- 10 (8) The commissioner of the department of correction or the
- 11 commissioner's designee.
- 12 (9) The commissioner of the commission for higher education
- 13 or the commissioner's designee.
- 14 (10) The state director of Head Start collaboration.
- 15 (11) The secretary of professional standards or the secretary's
- 16 designee.
- 17 (12) The state early childhood comprehensive services grant
- 18 coordinator.
- 19 (13) The director of the center for exceptional learners.
- 20 (14) A representative of institutions of higher education with
- 21 focus on early childhood education.
- 22 (15) A full-day kindergarten teacher.
- 23 (16) A half-day kindergarten teacher.
- 24 (17) A preschool teacher.
- 25 (18) A director of a child care center licensed in Indiana.
- 26 (19) A family care provider.
- 27 (20) A faith based child care provider.
- 28 (21) A child development specialist or researcher.
- 29 (22) A curriculum development specialist.
- 30 (23) A pediatrician.
- 31 (24) A local early reading first grantee.
- 32 (25) A public school principal of a school with a full-day
- 33 kindergarten program or early learning initiative that is not
- 34 located in the same district as the member representing public
- 35 school principals.
- 36 (26) A public school superintendent of a district with a
- 37 full-day kindergarten program or early learning initiative
- 38 that is not located in the same district as the member
- 39 representing public school superintendents.
- 40 (27) A member representing business.
- 41 (28) Two (2) members representing parents.
- 42 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint

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1 members under subsection (a)(14) through (a)(20), not more than
2 four (4) of whom shall be from the same political party, to serve on
3 the commission. The president pro tempore of the senate shall
4 appoint members under subsection (a)(21) through (a)(27), not
5 more than four (4) of whom shall be from the same political party,
6 to serve on the commission. The speaker of the house of
7 representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate shall
8 each appoint one (1) member under subsection (a)(28).

9 (c) The president pro tempore of the senate shall appoint a
10 member described in subsection (a)(1) as chairperson of the
11 commission in even-numbered years.

12 (d) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint a
13 member described in subsection (a)(2) as chairperson of the
14 commission in odd-numbered years.

15 Sec. 4. (a) A member appointed under section 3 of this chapter
16 serves for a term of one (1) year beginning July 1 of the year of the
17 appointment. However, a member appointed to fill a vacancy on
18 the commission shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired
19 term.

20 (b) Each appointed member of the commission serves at the
21 pleasure of the appointing authority.

22 Sec. 5. The commission shall operate under the policies
23 governing study committees adopted by the legislative council.
24 However, the commission shall meet throughout the year at the call
25 of the chairperson, except when the general assembly is in session.

26 Sec. 6. The affirmative votes of a majority of the members
27 appointed to the commission are required for the commission to
28 take action on any measure, including a final report.

29 Sec. 7. The commission shall have the following duties:

30 (1) Advise the legislative council on the most effective policy
31 direction and methods to improve the quality of, coordination
32 of, delivery of, and access to early education and school
33 readiness services, including:

- 34 (A) child care (including home and center based child
35 care);
- 36 (B) preschool; and
- 37 (C) family support services and programs.

38 (2) Develop and implement strategies for early learning and
39 school readiness that include:

- 40 (A) providing all children three (3) and four (4) years of
41 age with access to high quality prekindergarten programs
42 that help prepare them for success in school;

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- 1 **(B) involving parents in planning and implementation of**
- 2 **all early learning and school readiness efforts;**
- 3 **(C) providing parents, pediatricians, and others who work**
- 4 **with children with information regarding cognitive**
- 5 **development and the importance of reading to infants and**
- 6 **children;**
- 7 **(D) providing access to appropriate health screenings and**
- 8 **high quality developmental checkups for all children from**
- 9 **birth through seven (7) years of age;**
- 10 **(E) focusing on reading;**
- 11 **(F) asking employers to invest in the state's future**
- 12 **workforce by providing or partnering to provide high**
- 13 **quality child care and prekindergarten options for**
- 14 **employees; and**
- 15 **(G) making high quality full-day kindergarten available**
- 16 **for all children.**
- 17 **(3) Identify and recommend methods to:**
- 18 **(A) strengthen the transition between early learning**
- 19 **programs for children below the age of school entry and**
- 20 **the kindergarten through grade 12 education system; and**
- 21 **(B) strengthen the communication with parents,**
- 22 **pediatricians, and others who work with children about the**
- 23 **critical role of early learning and school readiness.**
- 24 **(4) Identify and build upon successful initiatives currently in**
- 25 **place to integrate early childhood services and expand**
- 26 **collaborative partnerships with business, educational**
- 27 **institutions, human service, health, and mental health**
- 28 **providers, and other entities to support early learning.**
- 29 **(5) Meet no fewer than four (4) times per year while the**
- 30 **legislature is not in session and strive to include all interested**
- 31 **members of the public, along with early education and school**
- 32 **readiness advocacy groups in the commission's deliberation.**
- 33 **(6) Submit a report to the legislative council before November**
- 34 **1 of every calendar year that includes the commission's**
- 35 **findings and recommendations concerning the topics**
- 36 **described in this chapter. The report must be in an electronic**
- 37 **format under IC 5-14-6.**

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