

HB114 – Testimony

Thank you **Madam Chair**, and thank you to the members of the Education Committee.

Representative Bird and I appreciate your consideration today.

Our bill, **House Bill 114**, is quite simple.

It would do three main things:

- 1) First, the bill would require public schools to admit to kindergarten any child who would be five years old by the first day of instruction.
 - a. Under current law, a local school board is permitted to adopt a rule stating a child must be five years of age by either August 1st or September 30th.
- 2) Second, it would eliminate the referral and evaluation process by which a public school could admit to kindergarten a four-year old who would turn five by January 1.
 - a. Under current law, a school must evaluate for early admittance a child who does not meet the age requirements, but who will be five by January 1, if admission is requested by:
 - i. Parents/guardian
 - ii. Educator employed by the district
 - iii. Preschool educator who knows the child
 - iv. Pediatrician/Psychologist who knows the child

- b. Again, this bill would eliminate this process.
- 3) Third, this bill would eliminate the law permitting a child who will not be five by January 1 to be admitted to kindergarten early under the school district's "student acceleration policy."

In effect, what **Representative Bird** and I are seeking to do is create a uniform standard for kindergarten admission across the state.

Thanks again for your attention.....please let us know if you have questions.