

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0012

Developmental preschool funding.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on Developmental Programs

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; providing for funding of
2 developmental preschool programs, as specified; providing
3 requirements for contracts with developmental preschools,
4 as specified; requiring reports; granting rulemaking
5 authority; amending a definition; providing an
6 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-2-706 is created to read:

11

12 **21-2-706. Developmental preschool funding.**

13

14 (a) Expenditures by the division for developmental
15 preschool services shall be subject to the following:

16

1 (i) Contractual payments to developmental
2 preschool service providers shall be sufficient for the
3 providers to provide adequate services for children age
4 birth through five (5) with developmental disabilities and
5 delays, including compensation levels for early childhood
6 special educators, occupational therapists, physical
7 therapists and speech-language therapists that are
8 competitive with local school district compensation levels
9 for those categories;

10

11 (ii) Contractual payments to developmental
12 preschool service providers shall be sufficient for the
13 providers to pay for professional development activities of
14 their professional employees and for a statewide program to
15 identify children in need of developmental preschool
16 services;

17

18 (iii) Contracts with developmental preschool
19 service providers shall require that the providers adopt
20 evidence-based best practices, as defined by the division
21 by rule and regulation.

22

23 (b) For purposes of calculating payments to service
24 providers for the subsequent fiscal year and preparing the

1 division's standard budget for the subsequent biennium,
2 children with developmental disabilities who are subject to
3 an individualized education program or an individualized
4 family service plan shall be estimated as of December 1 of
5 the current fiscal year, and that number shall be
6 multiplied by seven thousand two hundred six dollars
7 (\$7,206.00) per child per year.

8

9 (c) In preparing the standard budget amount following
10 the 2007-2008 biennium and thereafter, the amount described
11 in subsection (b) shall be increased by the most recent
12 external cost adjustment as enacted by the legislature
13 pursuant to W.S. 21-13-309(o) (i) and (r).

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15 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-2-701(a) (ii) is amended to read:

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17 **21-2-701. Definitions.**

18

19 (a) As used in this act:

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21 (ii) "Preschool children with disabilities"
22 means any children ~~three (3)~~ from birth through five (5)
23 years of age in the state of Wyoming having a mental,
24 physical or psychological disability which impairs

1 learning, subject to rules and regulations of the state
2 superintendent;

3

4 **Section 3.**

5

6 (a) The developmental disabilities division of the
7 department of health shall report to the select committee
8 on developmental programs or, if that committee no longer
9 exists, to the joint education interim committee as
10 follows:

11

12 (i) By October 1, 2006, and every two (2) years
13 thereafter, regarding:

14

15 (A) Whether compensation levels for early
16 childhood special educators, occupational therapists,
17 physical therapists and speech-language therapists are
18 competitive with local school district salaries, and the
19 effect of school district recalibration on those salaries;

20

21 (B) Whether funding levels are sufficient
22 to provide required services for all eligible children;

23

1 (C) Whether services for children with
2 developmental disabilities are provided in a least
3 restrictive environment;

4
5 (D) Whether developmental preschools have
6 adopted evidence-based best practices;

7
8 (E) Measurable standards adopted by the
9 division to ensure quality service delivery.

10

11 (ii) By October 1, 2006, regarding:

12

13 (A) The progress of a mental health pilot
14 project and the cost of integrating mental health services
15 in developmental preschools;

16

17 (B) The capital construction needs of
18 developmental preschools in the state.

19

20 **Section 4.** The department of education shall report
21 to the select committee on developmental programs or, if
22 that committee no longer exists, to the joint education
23 interim committee by October 1, 2006 on the amount of funds
24 each school district is providing to the developmental

1 preschools to conduct child find activities for children
2 from birth through five (5) years of age.

3

4 **Section 5.** In addition to any other funds
5 appropriated for developmental preschool programs, twelve
6 million dollars (\$12,000,000.00) is appropriated to the
7 department of health from the general fund for the biennium
8 commencing July 1, 2006 for the purposes of this act.

9

10 **Section 6.** This act is effective immediately upon
11 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
12 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
13 Constitution.

14

15

(END)