

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0144

Kindergarten readiness programs.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Connolly, Filer, Harshman,  
Harvey and Northrup and Senator(s) Anderson,  
J.D. (SD02), Barnard and Rothfuss

## A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to kindergarten readiness, early childhood  
2 development and early literacy development; providing for  
3 development of policy and system structure through  
4 statewide consensus discussions as specified; prescribing  
5 duties; and providing for an effective date.

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

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) The department of family services shall conduct a  
12 series of statewide discussions to develop state policy on  
13 early literacy development, kindergarten readiness and  
14 comprehensive early childhood development. For purposes of  
15 this section, relevant stakeholders include but are not  
16 limited to representatives of parents, advocacy groups,

1 kindergarten teachers, the department of health, the  
2 University of Wyoming literacy faculty, the department of  
3 family services, the department of workforce services, the  
4 department of corrections, the state department of  
5 education, the early childhood state advisory council,  
6 child care providers and developmental preschools. Results  
7 of these discussions shall be used to develop state policy  
8 addressing:

9  
10 (i) Development of early learning standards  
11 that:

12  
13 (A) Address cognitive language, speech  
14 development, motor and social emotional development as well  
15 as physical and mental health;

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17 (B) Include child outcomes.

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19 (ii) Developmentally appropriate and effective,  
20 evidence-based early literacy strategies with  
21 recommendations for:

22  
23 (A) Inclusion of families in early literacy  
24 development; and

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2 (B) Professional development pathways to  
3 deliver knowledge and skills to early childhood  
4 professionals.

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6 (iii) Continued parental involvement in the  
7 development of state policy;

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9 (iv) Affordable access to quality early  
10 childhood development systems that promote kindergarten  
11 readiness for all children;

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13 (v) Kindergarten readiness as defined through a  
14 comprehensive system providing clear and comprehensive  
15 guidelines to ensure children entering school are ready for  
16 kindergarten.

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18 (b) The department of family services may contract  
19 with appropriate persons and organizations to conduct the  
20 consensus discussions required under subsection (a) of this  
21 section and to assist with work necessary to establish  
22 policies and systems required under subsection (a) of this  
23 section. Progress on consensus discussions and policy  
24 development shall be reported to the joint education

1 interim committee, culminating in a final report to the  
2 committee to be submitted on or before October 15, 2013.  
3 The final report shall be comprised of policy  
4 recommendations addressing those issues identified in  
5 subsection (a) of this section, together with  
6 recommendations for necessary enabling legislation. Broad  
7 public involvement shall be documented in the report, which  
8 shall serve as the basis for development of uniform policy  
9 on early childhood development, kindergarten readiness and  
10 early literacy development.

11

12       **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon  
13 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
14 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
15 Constitution.

16

17 (END)