



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 520

Chairperson: Ron Raikes
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: March 6, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 520 would create an Early Childhood Legislative Study Group to conduct an in-depth review of current available early childhood education programs and the financing available to support such programs; make projections of the state investment needed to finance a system of universally available early childhood education to young children across the state; examine methods to phase in funding to fully fund early childhood education beginning with the age group three to five years; examine financing methods used in other states and nations which provide universal access to early childhood education; examine methods to coordinate early childhood education programs available through private nonprofit and for-profit organizations with public school programs, including districts contracting for services with entities that meet state program standards; examine the impact of current budget and tax limitations on the growth of early childhood education; examine program standards that promote optimal learning for young children and that are integrated with state curriculum content standards; examine licensure and certification standards for teachers in early childhood education programs; and prepare a report with recommendations and a plan to implement the recommendations for the Education Committee of the Legislature by March 1, 2008.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Gwen Howard