

NO FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 07-0210**Date:** May 8, 2007**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Tapia
Rep. Butcher**Bill Status:** Signed into Law**Fiscal Analyst:** David Porter (303-866-4375)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION.**Summary of Assessment**

Bill Summary. SB07-016 lowers the age of mandatory school attendance from seven to six years of age. Parents of children that enter kindergarten or preschool at age five or six may keep their children from advancing to first grade in the following year by notifying the school. A parent choosing to homeschool their child must submit written notification of their homeschool program in the child's sixth year of age. The homeschool program does not have to begin until the child reaches seven-years-old.

Background. SB06-073, passed in the 2006 session of the General Assembly, required that students attend school until reaching their 17th birthday, up from 16. The bill initially included a provision similar to this bill, requiring that children attend school after reaching six years of age; however, this was not included in the final version of the bill. The fiscal analysis of this bill is consistent with the analysis provided SB06-073.

Fiscal Analysis. Current law states that every public school shall be open for the admission of all children between the ages of 6 and 21 years. Funding for each child is split between the state General Fund and school districts, and is currently predicted to average \$6,624 per pupil in FY 2007-08 based on Legislative Council's projected inflation of 3.2 percent.

Information on 6-year-old students shows an enrollment of 60,907 in the current school year. This level of enrollment is comparable with the enrollment of 7- and 8-year-olds and indicates that the majority of 6-year-olds are currently attending schools. This fiscal note anticipates new enrollment of 6-year-old children will be minimal and will not lead to a significant increase in state expenditures. It is also expected that few, if any, new truancy cases will be filed on 6-year-olds and the court system has sufficient resources to absorb any increased caseload.

With no additional state or local revenues or expenditures expected, this bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact. The bill was signed by the Governor on March 16, 2007, and becomes effective on July 1, 2008.

Departments Contacted

Education

Judicial