

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6236

As of January 23, 2024

Title: An act relating to filing a declaration of intent to provide home-based instruction.

Brief Description: Filing a declaration of intent to provide home-based instruction.

Sponsors: Senators Wellman, Hunt and Nobles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/24/24.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires a parent who intends for their child to receive home-based instruction to file a signed declaration of intent in the school years when their child turns six and seven.
- Provides that this requirement does not modify the compulsory attendance or home-based instruction requirements, which begin at age eight.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Ailey Kato (786-7434)

Background: School Attendance. Parents of children who are 8 and under 18 years old must cause their children to attend a public school of the district in which the child resides unless the child is:

- attending an approved private school;
- receiving home-based instruction; or
- meets other exceptions provided by law.

Home-Based Instruction. Home-based instruction requires a parent to annually file a

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declaration of intent to provide their child with home-based instruction beginning when the child is 8 years old until 18.

The signed declaration must be filed with the superintendent of the school district where the parent resides by September 15th of the school year, or within two weeks of the beginning of any public school quarter, trimester, or semester. The signed declaration must include the name and age of the child, specify whether a certificated person will be supervising the instruction, and be written in a format prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Parents must also keep certain records and annually administer a standardized achievement test.

Summary of Bill: A parent who intends for their child to receive home-based instruction must file a signed declaration of intent in the school year when the child turns six years old and in the school year when the child turns seven years old.

The signed declaration must be filed with the superintendent of the school district where the parent resides by September 15th of the school year, or within two weeks of the beginning of any public school quarter, trimester, or semester. The signed declaration must include the name and age of the child and be written in a format prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The requirement to file a signed declaration of intent in the school year when a child turns six and seven does not modify the compulsory attendance requirements or home-based instruction requirements, which begin at age eight.

Parent is defined as a parent, guardian, or person having legal custody of a child.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 17, 2024.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.