



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 240** SLS 26RS 182  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 19, 2026 12:48 PM	<b>Author:</b> BARROW
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Education	
<b>Subject:</b> Licensing of early learning centers	<b>Analyst:</b> Julie Silva

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Provides relative to early learning centers. (gov sig)

Present law requires that all public and nonpublic prekindergarten programs comply with child welfare minimum standards and further requires all nonpublic prekindergarten programs be licensed as early learning centers. Proposed legislation retains present law requirements concerning complicity with child welfare minimum standards and requires that, in addition to all nonpublic prekindergarten programs, all public prekindergarten programs be licensed as early learning centers. Creates a new Type IV license specifically for programs attached to schools, with adjusted inspection and training requirements. The bill clarifies that employees of Type IV centers are subject to background checks and requires that Type IV centers be represented on the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education. Clarifies that early learning center background check requirements do not apply to any Type IV early learning center employee who has complied with the criminal history background check and state central registry check requirements needed to be employed by the school to which it is attached.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	
Local Funds	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Beginning in FY 27, proposed legislation will result in an estimated increase of \$5.9 M and require an additional 53 authorized T.O. positions for the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to process licenses, conduct inspections, perform monitoring activities, and verify background check compliance associated with licensing 1,848 public school prekindergarten sites as early learning centers.

These positions include 37 Licensing Specialists to conduct initial, compliance, follow-up, and annual inspections; eight (8) Licensing Supervisors to train and supervise Licensing Specialists, review inspection reports, and conduct onsite quality monitoring; and eight (8) Licensing Consultants to review applications for initial, renewal, and change licensing and to provide consultation to schools regarding compliance with *Bulletin 137 - Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations*. The department reports the staffing estimates are based on a caseload of approximately fifty (50) sites per Licensing Specialist, five (5) Licensing Specialists per Licensing Supervisor, and two hundred fifty (250) sites per Licensing Consultant, with additional staffing considerations related to the geographic distribution of early learning sites across the state.

Positions	Salaries + Related Benefits Per Position	Total
Licensing Specialists I/II (37)	\$90,692	\$3,355,604
Licensing Supervisor (8)	\$108,877	\$871,016
Licensing Consultant (8)	\$108,877	<u>\$871,016</u>
Total Personal Services		\$5,097,636
Operating Expenses	\$ 14,791	<u>\$783,923</u>
<b>Total (FY 27)</b>		<b>\$5,881,559</b>

Proposed legislation is expected to result in additional local expenditures for public prekindergarten programs attached to schools. Actual costs for any single LEA are indeterminable and will depend on administrative and facility adjustments needed to comply with Type IV early learning center licensing and inspection requirements.

**Continued on page two.**

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

Proposed legislation is anticipated to increase SGR to LDOE from annual licensing fees for public prekindergarten programs, with fees based on enrollment: \$25 for 1-15 students, \$100 for 16-50, \$175 for 51-100, and \$250 for 101 or more. LDOE estimates annual increase in revenue of \$46,200 from the 1,848 public school prekindergarten sites. However, actual receipts will be dependent on enrollment.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**



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**CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:**

**Note:** Proposed legislation exempts employees of Type IV early learning centers from Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) requirements and from Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) training, allowing compliance with standard school employment background and state central registry checks instead. The federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (45 CFR §98.43(a)(1)) requires all employees of early learning centers licensed by the state to complete CCCBCs, which include fingerprint-based FBI checks, multi-state child abuse and neglect registry searches, and sex offender registry checks, as well as SBS training. Exempting Type IV employees from these requirements creates a risk of federal noncompliance, which could affect early childhood program funding and increase liability for the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and local school districts.

Schools serving only pre-K 3 and 4-year-olds may be eligible for licensing exemptions. However, campuses that also operate programs for children under age 3 could face conflicts with LAC 28:CLXI.709, which prohibits multiple licenses issued to a single address. LDOE reports that additional research would be needed to determine whether multiple licenses could be authorized or program adjustments would be required.

**Senate**      Dual Referral Rules  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

**House**  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

  
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