

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 580 (HB 1146)

2026 Regular Session

Wyble

Existing law (R.S. 17:407.101) establishes and provides for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission (Commission) and provides for the following membership, which new law revises as follows:

- (1) Prior law provided for one representative of a municipality that receives Head Start funding, appointed by the governor. New law removes this member.
- (2) One representative of a Head Start program, appointed by the governor.
- (3) One representative of a child advocacy or community organization, appointed by the governor.
- (4) One representative of a disability advocacy organization, appointed by the governor.
- (5) One representative of the governor's office, appointed by the governor.
- (6) One business representative, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (7) One local school superintendent, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (8) One representative of Type III early learning centers, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (9) One representative of a child advocacy or community organization. Prior law provided for this person to be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives. New law instead provides for this member to be appointed by For Providers, By Providers.
- (10) One parent of a child in an Early Head Start Center, Head Start Center, or stand-alone prekindergarten program, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives. Prior law included the parent of a child in a publicly funded "child daycare" center as an option. New law instead includes the parent of a child in a publicly funded "early learning" center.
- (11) Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (12) One business representative, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (13) One local school superintendent, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (14) One representative of Type III early learning centers, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (15) Prior law provided for one representative of a child advocacy or community organization, appointed by the president of the Senate. New law removes this member.
- (16) One parent of a child in an Early Head Start Center, Head Start Center, or stand-alone prekindergarten program, appointed by the president of the Senate. Prior law included the parent of a child in a publicly funded "child daycare" center as an option. New law instead includes the parent of a child in a publicly funded "early learning" center.
- (17) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate.

- (18) Two representatives of high-performing community early childhood care and education networks, appointed by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) upon recommendation of the state superintendent of education.
- (19) One representative of a nonpublic school participating in a publicly funded early childhood care and education program, appointed by BESE.
- (20) A member appointed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, La. Chapter.
- (21) Prior law provided for one person with professional expertise in the operations of a family care center, appointed by the governor. New law replaces this member with a representative of a family child care provider that is Child Care Assistance Program-certified with academic approval, appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- (22) One early care and education researcher from a public postsecondary education institution, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (23) One representative from a Type I early learning center, appointed by the president of the Senate. Prior law allowed a representative from a Type II early learning center as an alternative to a Type I representative. New law removes this option.
- (24) One representative of maternal, infant, and early childhood home visitation programs within the Bureau of Family Health, appointed by the secretary of the La. Department of Health.
- (25) One representative of the Early Steps program within the Bureau of Family Health, appointed by the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health.
- (26) One representative of early childhood programs within the state Dept. of Education (DOE), appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- (27) An employee of the La. Head Start Collaboration Office, appointed by the state superintendent of education. Prior law provided for a representative of the office. New law instead provides for the director of the office.
- (28) One representative of the special education programs within DOE, appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- (29) A staff member of the Board of Regents, appointed by the board.
- (30) The secretary of La. Works, or his designee.
- (31) The secretary of La. Economic Development, or his designee.
- (32) The secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services, or his designee.
- (33) One professional with expertise in the socioemotional development and well-being of children from birth through age four, appointed by the governor.
- (34) One early intervention researcher from a La. public postsecondary education institution, appointed by the Bd. of Regents.
- (35) One early childhood education researcher from a La. public postsecondary education institution, appointed by the Bd. of Regents.
- (36) One member of BESE, appointed by the BESE president.
- (37) One early childhood development and education specialist, appointed by the president of a learning center. Prior law referred to the center as the Center for Development and Learning. New law refers to it instead as the Center for Literacy and Learning.

- (38) One member of the La. Educational Television Authority, appointed by the chairman of the authority.
- (39) One representative of a nongovernmental economic development organization. Prior law provided for appointment by the CEO of the Committee of 100 for Economic Development, Inc. New law changes the appointing authority to the CEO of Leaders for a Better La.
- (40) One representative of a child advocacy organization, appointed by an employee of executive director of the La. Policy Institute for Children. Prior law provided for appointment by the executive director. New law changes the appointing authority to the CEO.
- (41) The president and CEO of the La. Association of Business and Industry, or his designee.
- (42) Prior law provided for one member to be the executive director of the Child Care Association of Louisiana, or his designee. New law replaces this member with a child care provider appointed by the association's board of directors.

New law also adds one representative from a child care resource and referral agency, appointed by BESE, to the commission membership.

Prior law provided for the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education (Advisory Council) and for 17 voting members:

- (1) Two representatives of Type III early learning centers, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (2) One representative of a Type II early learning center, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (3) One representative of a Type I early learning center, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (4) Two representatives of Head Start programs, one of which shall be operated by a local education agency and selected by BESE, and one of which shall be operated by a nonlocal education agency and selected by the state superintendent of education from a list of three persons nominated by the La. Head Start Association.
- (5) Two representatives of local education agencies operating publicly funded early childhood programs other than Head Start, selected by BESE.
- (6) Two representatives of La. nonprofit advocacy organizations having a focus on early childhood education, selected by the state superintendent.
- (7) Two representatives of approved nonpublic schools with publicly funded early childhood care and education programs, selected by BESE.
- (8) One professional or faculty member having child development or early childhood education expertise from a La. postsecondary education institution, selected by the commissioner of higher education.
- (9) The president of the La. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, or his designee.
- (10) One representative of an advocacy or service organization that focuses on serving children with disabilities, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (11) One representative of a La. business or community organization, selected by BESE.
- (12) One parent of a child currently enrolled in a publicly funded early learning center or prekindergarten program, selected by BESE.

New law repeals prior law but provides that the following five of the above members are voting members of the Commission:

- (1) One representative of a Type III early learning center, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (2) One representative of Type II early learning centers, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (3) One representative of local education agencies operating publicly funded early childhood programs other than Head Start, selected by BESE.
- (4) One professional or faculty member having child development or early childhood education expertise from a La. postsecondary education institution, selected by the commissioner of higher education.
- (5) One parent of a child currently enrolled in a publicly funded early learning center or prekindergarten program, selected by BESE.

Prior law provided for the following 13 nonvoting members of the Advisory Council:

- (1) The chairmen of the House Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Education, House Committee on Health and Welfare, and Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or their designees.
- (2) The secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services, or his designee.
- (3) The state director of the La. State Head Start Collaboration Project.
- (4) A representative of the state agency responsible for programs under Section 619 or Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.).
- (5) The director of the Maternal and Child Health Program at the La. Dept. of Health.
- (6) The director of the Child and Adult Care Food Program at the State Dept. of Education.
- (7) The La. State Fire Marshal, or his designee.
- (8) A representative from the office of sanitarian services at the La. Dept. of Health.
- (9) A representative from La. Works.
- (10) A representative from the La. State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.

New law repeals prior law but provides that the following nine of the above members are nonvoting members of the Commission:

- (1) The chairmen of the House Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Education, House Committee on Health and Welfare, and Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or their designees.
- (2) The director of the Maternal and Child Health Program at the La. Dept. of Health.
- (3) The director of the Child and Adult Care Food Program at the State Dept. of Education.
- (4) The La. State Fire Marshal, or his designee.
- (5) A representative from the office of sanitarian services at the La. Dept. of Health.

- (6) A representative from the La. State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.

Existing law requires an entity to provide input and guidance to BESE and DOE on matters pertaining to the development and implementation of rules, regulations, bulletins, policies, or standards related to all early care and education programs, including early learning centers, enrollment in early learning centers, the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program, the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant, the Child Care Assistance Program, Early Head Start, and Head Start. Prior law required this to be done by the Advisory Council. New law requires this to be done by the Commission.

Existing law requires DOE to provide an opportunity for an entity to make recommendations on its draft of the state plan for the Child Care and Development Fund prior to submission to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Prior law required this opportunity to be provided to the Advisory Council. New law requires it to be provided to the Commission. Prior law required recommendations made by the Advisory Council to be reported to BESE. New law requires recommendations made by the Commission to be reported to BESE.

Existing law requires DOE to provide an opportunity for an entity to make recommendations prior to consideration by BESE of any rule (except for emergency rules) or standard related to early learning centers, enrollment in early learning centers, the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program, the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant, or the Child Care Assistance Program. Prior law required this opportunity to be provided to the Advisory Council. New law requires it to be provided to the Commission. Prior law required recommendations by the Advisory Council to be reported to BESE. New law requires recommendations made by the Commission to be reported to BESE.

Existing law requires DOE to provide quarterly and annual reports to the an entity and specifies the required content of the reports. Prior law required these to be submitted to the Advisory Council. New law requires these to be submitted to the Commission.

New law provides that commission members may attend and participate in meetings via electronic means in accordance with existing law (R.S. 42:17.2).

New law authorizes the Commission to establish such work groups as the Commission deems necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties and responsibilities. Provides that the voting members of the Commission shall elect a chair or provide for co-chairs if deemed necessary to provide for effective governance. Provides that the Commission shall meet at least quarterly, with meetings called by the chair or the state superintendent as needed.

New law provides that the commission is designated as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children from birth to school entry for purposes of federal law.

New law provides that each action, recommendation, or report in progress on the effective date of new law shall continue without interruption, all in accordance with the corresponding provisions of new law.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 29, 2026).

(Amends R.S. 17:407.101(C), (E), (F), and (G); Adds R.S. 17:407.101(I)-(M); Repeals R.S. 17:407.51)