

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1162 (Substitute for House Bill No. 1061 by Representative Gary Carter)

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARY CARTER

EDUCATION: Provides for a pilot program for providing early childhood education

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:24.10, relative to early childhood education; to provide for the  
3 establishment of a pilot program for providing early childhood education; to provide  
4 for student eligibility for participation in the program; to provide for program  
5 administration, implementation, and funding; to provide for program evaluation,  
6 monitoring, and reporting; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.10 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §24.10. Early childhood education; three-year-old children; pilot program

10 A. The state Department of Education, with the approval of the State Board  
11 of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall establish and provide for the  
12 implementation of a pilot program, referred to as the "LA 3 program", which shall  
13 be a community-based program for providing early childhood education to certain  
14 three-year-old children. The purposes of the pilot program are to study and  
15 determine the following:

16 (1) The educational and other elements necessary for three-year-old children  
17 to achieve and for providing high quality care and education programs for such  
18 children.

19 (2) The components of care and education programs that are important to  
20 parents of three-year-old children.

1           (3) The importance and feasibility of expanding access to care and education  
2           programs for three-year-old children.

3           B. To be eligible to participate in the program, a child shall meet all of the  
4           following criteria:

5           (1) Is three years old or will be eligible to enroll in kindergarten in two  
6           school years pursuant to R.S. 17:151.3.

7           (2) Is "at risk" as defined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
8           Education.

9           C. The program shall be administered by the state Department of Education  
10          in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
11          Education. An early childhood education provider choosing to participate in the  
12          program shall be a Type III early learning center as provided in R.S. 17:407.36(C).

13          D. The state Department of Education shall monitor and evaluate the  
14          program and shall submit a written report of such evaluation results, including but  
15          not limited to the performance and progress of the program, and all funding  
16          information for the program, including any unexpended funds, to the House  
17          Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education by not later than  
18          September first of each year of the program. The final report submitted by the  
19          department shall include recommendations by the department as to whether the  
20          program should continue as a pilot program or be implemented statewide.

21          E. The pilot program as provided in this Section shall be implemented  
22          subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

23          F. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate  
24          rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for  
25          implementation of the provisions of this Section. Prior to submitting a notice of  
26          intent for the adoption of such rules and regulations, the State Board of Elementary  
27          and Secondary Education shall submit the rules and regulations to the Advisory  
28          Council on Early Childhood Care and Education for review and comment.

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 1162 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Gary Carter

**Abstract:** Provides for the establishment of a community-based pilot program for providing early childhood education to certain three-year-old children. Provides for program administration, monitoring, and evaluation by the state Dept. of Education.

Proposed law requires the state Dept. of Education, with the approval of the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), to establish and provide for the implementation of a community-based pilot program, the "LA 3 program", for providing early childhood education. Provides that program implementation is subject to the appropriation of funds.

Provides for student eligibility criteria as follows:

- (1) Is three years old or will be eligible to enroll in kindergarten in two school years pursuant to present law (relative to kindergarten entrance age requirements).
- (2) Is "at risk" as defined by BESE.

Provides that the pilot program shall be administered by the state Dept. of Education in accordance with rules adopted by BESE. Requires that an early childhood education provider choosing to participate in the pilot program shall be a Type III licensed early learning center as provided in present law.

Requires the state Dept. of Education to monitor and evaluate the program and to annually submit a written report of evaluation results including but not limited to the performance and progress of the program and all funding information for the program including any unexpended funds. Requires that the final report include recommendations by the department as to whether the program should continue as a pilot program or be implemented statewide.

Requires BESE to promulgate rules and regulations for implementation of proposed law. Requires BESE to submit the rules and regulations to the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education for review and comment.

(Adds R.S. 17:24.10)