

ACT No. 639

HOUSE BILL NO. 676

BY REPRESENTATIVES HILFERTY, ANDERS, BACALA, BAGNERIS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BOUIE, BRASS, CHADBROWN, TERRY BROWN, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CONNICK, COX, DAVIS, EDMONDS, FALCONER, FOIL, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, HALL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HUNTER, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, NANCY LANDRY, LEGER, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, GREGORY MILLER, NORTON, PIERRE, POPE, REYNOLDS, SCHEXNAYDER, SMITH, STAGNI, STOKES, THOMAS, WHITE, WRIGHT, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATORS ALARIO, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CHABERT, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, GATTI, HEWITT, LAFLEUR, LONG, LUNEAU, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:407.51(H), to enact R.S. 17:407.23(B)(6) and (D) and Part
3 X-F of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
4 comprised of R.S. 17:407.101, and R.S. 36:651(G)(6), and to repeal R.S.
5 17:407.23(D)(3) and Part X-F of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised
6 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:407.101, and R.S. 36:651(G)(6), relative to
7 the development of early childhood care and education; to establish the Early
8 Childhood Care and Education Commission; to provide relative to the purpose,
9 membership, and meetings of the commission; to require the commission to study
10 and make recommendations relative to specific matters; to require the commission
11 report to the legislature; to provide for termination of the commission; to provide for
12 an early childhood care and education pilot program within the Department of
13 Education; to provide for program funding; to provide for the authority and
14 responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to
15 provide for participation in pilot programs; to provide for the powers and duties of
16 the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education; and to provide for
17 related matters.

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

2 Section 1. R.S. 17:407.51(H) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
3 17:407.23(B)(6) and (D) and Part X-F of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised
4 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:407.101, are hereby enacted to read as follows:

5 §407.23. Early Childhood Care and Education Network; creation; components;
6 duties and responsibilities; pilot programs

7 * * *

8 B. To facilitate the creation of this network, the state board shall:

9 * * *

10 (6) Incorporate feedback from the Early Childhood Care and Education
11 Commission into a statewide policy on local governance and coordination.

12 * * *

13 D.(1) The state board may use available public and private funds to
14 implement new strategies to increase access to and improve the quality of early
15 childhood care and education programs by establishing pilot programs in high-
16 performing community early childhood care and education networks established by
17 the state board pursuant to this Section. Lead agencies of high-performing
18 community networks, as identified by the state board, may elect to participate in the
19 pilot programs. The findings from these pilot programs shall be used to inform
20 statewide efforts to improve the effectiveness of local early childhood care and
21 education programs.

22 (2) A community network participating in a pilot program shall:

23 (a) Measure the need for affordable access to quality early childhood care
24 and education for children from birth through age four within the community.

25 (b) Establish a local, collaborative governing structure for shared
26 decisionmaking.

27 (c) Identify shared resources that can support improved access to and quality
28 of early childhood care and education programs for children from birth through age
29 four and determine how resources can be leveraged to maximize the impact of such
30 programs for each age year.

1 (d) Determine how future financial support should be used to expand access
2 to and improve quality of infant, toddler, and prekindergarten classrooms in the local
3 community.

4 (3) The state Department of Education shall provide updates on the pilot
5 programs to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

6 * * *

7 §407.51. Advisory Council

8 * * *

9 H.(1) The council shall provide input and guidance to the board and the
10 department on matters pertaining to the development and implementation of rules,
11 regulations, bulletins, policies, or standards related to all ~~publicly funded~~ early care
12 and education programs, including early learning centers, enrollment in early
13 learning centers, the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program, the Child Care
14 and Development Fund Block Grant, the Child Care Assistance Program, Early Head
15 Start, and Head Start.

16 (2) Beginning April 1, 2020, the council shall regularly evaluate the
17 implementation of the plan for early childhood care and education established by the
18 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and provide recommendations to
19 support its implementation.

20 * * *

21 PART X-F. EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COMMISSION

22 §407.101. Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

23 A. The legislature finds that the early childhood care and education network
24 established by Act No. 3 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature and
25 community networks created by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
26 Education have been instrumental in improving kindergarten readiness. Community
27 networks, especially those with the highest performance, are able to demonstrate that
28 affordable access can be achieved when provided with adequate resources.
29 Providing early childhood programming of high quality, rather than affordable
30 access alone, must remain a state priority. While quality can be measured on a

1 statewide basis, it is best assured through community-based plans and local early
2 childhood program collaboration.

3 B. The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission is hereby
4 established for the purpose of building on the foundation established by Act No. 3
5 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature to create a vision for the future of
6 early childhood care and education in Louisiana.

7 C.(1) The commission is comprised in part of twenty-six voting members as
8 follows:

9 (a) One representative of a municipality that receives Head Start funding,
10 appointed by the governor.

11 (b) One representative of a Head Start program, appointed by the governor.

12 (c) One representative of a child advocacy or community organization,
13 appointed by the governor.

14 (d) One representative of a special-needs advocacy organization, appointed
15 by the governor.

16 (e) One representative of the governor's office, appointed by the governor.

17 (f) One business representative, appointed by the speaker of the House of
18 Representatives.

19 (g) One local school superintendent, appointed by the speaker of the House
20 of Representatives.

21 (h) One representative of Type III early learning centers, appointed by the
22 speaker of the House of Representatives.

23 (i) One representative of a child advocacy or community organization,
24 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 (j) One parent of a child in a publicly funded child daycare center, Early
26 Head Start Center, Head Start Center, or stand-alone prekindergarten program,
27 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

28 (k) Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker
29 of the House of Representatives.

1 (l) One business representative, appointed by the president of the Senate.

2 (m) One local school superintendent, appointed by the president of the
 3 Senate.

4 (n) One representative of Type III early learning centers, appointed by the
 5 president of the Senate.

6 (o) One representative of a child advocacy or community organization,
 7 appointed by the president of the Senate.

8 (p) One parent of a child in a publicly funded child daycare center, Early
 9 Head Start Center, Head Start Center, or stand-alone prekindergarten program,
 10 appointed by the president of the Senate.

11 (q) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate.

12 (r) Two representatives of high-performing community early childhood care
 13 and education networks, appointed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 14 Education upon recommendation of the state superintendent of education.

15 (s) One representative of a nonpublic school participating in a publicly
 16 funded early childhood care and education program, appointed by the State Board
 17 of Elementary and Secondary Education.

18 (t) A member appointed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Louisiana
 19 Chapter.

20 (u) One person with professional expertise in the operations of a family care
 21 center, appointed by the governor.

22 (v) One early care and education researcher from a public postsecondary
 23 education institution, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

24 (w) One representative from either a Type I or Type II early learning center,
 25 appointed by the president of the Senate.

26 (2) The commission is comprised in part of twelve nonvoting members as
 27 follows:

28 (a) One representative of maternal, infant, and early childhood home
 29 visitation programs within the Bureau of Family Health, appointed by the secretary
 30 of the Louisiana Department of Health.

1 **(b) One representative of the Early Steps program within the Bureau of**
2 **Family Health, appointed by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.**

3 **(c) One representative of early childhood programs within the state**
4 **Department of Education, appointed by the state superintendent of education.**

5 **(d) One representative of the Louisiana Head Start Collaboration Office,**
6 **appointed by the state superintendent of education.**

7 **(e) One representative of the special education programs within the**
8 **Department of Education, appointed by the state superintendent of education.**

9 **(f) A staff member of the Board of Regents, appointed by the Board of**
10 **Regents.**

11 **(g) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his**
12 **designee.**

13 **(h) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his**
14 **designee.**

15 **(i) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or his**
16 **designee.**

17 **(j) One professional with expertise in the socioemotional development and**
18 **well-being of children from birth through age four, appointed by the governor.**

19 **(k) One early intervention researcher from a Louisiana public postsecondary**
20 **education institution, appointed by the Board of Regents.**

21 **(l) One early childhood education researcher from a Louisiana public**
22 **postsecondary education institution, appointed by the Board of Regents.**

23 **(3) A vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the**
24 **same manner as the original appointment.**

25 **(4) The chairman of the House Committee on Education and chairman of the**
26 **Senate Committee on Education, acting jointly, shall select two voting members to**
27 **serve as co-chairmen of the commission.**

28 **(5) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation.**

1 D. The state Department of Education shall provide staff support for the
 2 commission.

3 E. The commission shall study and make recommendations relative to
 4 establishing a vision for the future of early childhood care and education in
 5 Louisiana. When conducting analysis and making recommendations relative to a
 6 vision and framework, the commission shall do all of the following:

7 (1) Gather and analyze data relative to the current availability, quality, and
 8 cost of early childhood care and education throughout the state for children from
 9 birth through age four, determine needs and priorities, and develop a plan focused
 10 on family access, affordability, and quality.

11 (2) Consider research, local coordination currently established in Louisiana
 12 including current high-performing community networks, and related work done in
 13 other states to determine best practices for the purpose of informing and fostering the
 14 continued development of local governing entities that coordinate across programs
 15 and providers in order to meet family needs, drive quality improvement, maximize
 16 financial resources, and support children from birth through age four and their
 17 families.

18 (3) Determine a sustainable infrastructure to ensure quality programs across
 19 providers. Such infrastructure shall include workforce and professional development,
 20 monitoring and assessment, coordinated enrollment, and data-informed
 21 decisionmaking.

22 (4) Identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination among
 23 programs and agencies responsible for development of children from birth through
 24 age four.

25 (5) Define a timeframe for achieving the vision and determine benchmarks
 26 for the intervening years.

27 (6) Determine the amount of funding needed to achieve affordable access to
 28 quality care and education for all children from birth through age four and
 29 recommend policies that prioritize the allocation of future funding.

1 F. Before the 2019 Regular Session of the Legislature, the commission shall
 2 produce a report of its findings and recommendations. Before the 2020 Regular
 3 Session of the Legislature, the commission shall produce a report on the status of the
 4 implementation of its recommendations. The reports shall be provided to the
 5 governor, members of the legislature, the state superintendent of education, and the
 6 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education no less than fourteen days prior
 7 to the first day of the regular session.

8 G. The commission shall meet at least twice between the 2018 and 2019
 9 Regular Sessions of the Legislature and shall meet at least twice between the 2019
 10 and 2020 Regular Sessions of the Legislature during which meetings the state
 11 Department of Education shall provide updates on how the commission's
 12 recommendations are being implemented. The commission shall make any further
 13 recommendations it deems necessary to advance the vision and goals established.

14 H. A majority of the voting members of the commission shall constitute a
 15 quorum for the transaction of business. The commission shall be domiciled in
 16 Baton Rouge but may hold public hearings elsewhere in the state.

17 Section 2. R.S. 36:651(G)(6) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

18 §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department
 19 of Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of
 20 Education

21 * * *

22 G. The following agencies, as defined by R.S. 36:3, are transferred to and
 23 hereafter shall be within the Department of Education as provided in Part III of
 24 Chapter 22 of this Title:

25 * * *

26 (6) The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission (R.S. 17:407.101).

27 * * *

1 Section 3. R.S. 17:407.23(D)(3), Part X-F of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana
2 Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:407.101, and R.S. 36:651(G)(6) are hereby
3 repealed in their entirety.

4 Section 4. Section 3 of this Act shall become effective on March 31, 2020.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____