

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 395

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FUNDS/FUNDING: Provides relative to a special fund for the purpose of funding early childhood education

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:407.30(D) and (E), relative to funding for early childhood
3 education; to provide relative to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund; to
4 provide relative to the use of money in the fund; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:407.30(D) and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 §407.30. Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund

9 * * *

10 D.(1) The fund shall be administered by the State Board of Elementary and
11 Secondary Education. Monies in the fund shall be awarded annually to local entities
12 approved by the board for the purpose of funding projects that will expand the
13 number of early childhood care and education slots through the Child Care
14 Assistance Program in Type III early learning centers that have at least one
15 classroom with children age fifteen months or younger if a local entity provides
16 funds from nonstate and nonfederal sources. No such award shall be made unless
17 the local entity's financial commitment to the project proposed for funding provides
18 matching funds from nonstate and nonfederal sources at a rate of at least ~~two to one~~
19 one-to-one.

Proposed law authorizes BESE, if there is money in the fund after the board has funded every qualifying project pursuant to present law, to award remaining monies in the fund for the exclusive use of Type III early learning centers to provide quality care for children who are eligible for CCAP and who are ages birth through two. Requires BESE to consider the following in selecting recipients of such an award: the CCAP waitlist, child poverty rates, child care needs in terms of the economic development needs of the parish where the center is located, and increasing the availability of high quality early learning centers statewide.

Present law authorizes BESE to award additional funding in accordance with CCAP in a local entity's jurisdiction. Prohibits the award from exceeding 50% of the nonstate funds. Proposed law removes present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:407.30(D) and (E))