

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1146

BY REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Provides relative to the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education and the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:407.101(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (2) through (5),
3 (E), (F), and (G), to enact R.S. 17:407.101(C)(1)(qq) through (bbb) and (6) and (I)
4 through (L), and to repeal R.S. 17:407.51, relative to early childhood care and
5 education; to provide relative to the Early Childhood Care and Education
6 Commission; to provide for the membership of the commission; to provide for the
7 duties and authority of the commission; to provide for meetings of the commission;
8 to provide relative to the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education;
9 to repeal the statutory authority for the advisory council; to transfer certain duties
10 and authority of the advisory council to the commission; to require certain reports
11 by the state Department of Education to be provided to the commission instead of the
12 advisory council; and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. The Legislature of Louisiana finds that the state's early childhood care and
15 education system has benefitted from both the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care
16 and Education and the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and that greater
17 alignment, efficiency, and impact can be achieved by consolidating these entities while
18 preserving their duties, membership, and authority.

1 Section 2. R.S. 17:407.101(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (2) through (5), (E),
2 (F), and (G) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:407.101(C)(1)(qq) through (bbb)
3 and (6) and (I) through (L) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

4 §407.101. Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

5 * * *

6 C.(1) The commission is composed of ~~forty-five~~ members as follows:

7 * * *

8 (qq) Two representatives of Type III early learning centers, selected by the
9 state superintendent of education.

10 (rr) One representative of a Type II early learning center, selected by the
11 state superintendent of education.

12 (ss) One representative of a Type I early learning center, selected by the state
13 superintendent of education.

14 (tt) Two representatives of Head Start programs, one of which shall be
15 operated by a local education agency and selected by the state board, and one of
16 which shall be operated by a nonlocal education agency and selected by the state
17 superintendent of education from a list of three persons nominated by the Louisiana
18 Head Start Association.

19 (uu) Two representatives of local education agencies operating publicly
20 funded early childhood programs other than Head Start, selected by the state board.

21 (vv) Two representatives of Louisiana nonprofit advocacy organizations
22 having a focus on early childhood education, selected by the state superintendent.

23 (ww) Two representatives of approved nonpublic schools with publicly
24 funded early childhood care and education programs, selected by the state board.

25 (xx) One professional or faculty member having child development or early
26 childhood education expertise from a Louisiana postsecondary education institution,
27 selected by the commissioner of higher education.

28 (yy) The president of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of
29 Pediatrics, or his designee.

1 ~~(zz) One representative of an advocacy or service organization that focuses~~
2 ~~on serving children with disabilities, selected by the state superintendent.~~

3 ~~(aaa) One representative of a Louisiana business or community organization,~~
4 ~~selected by the state board.~~

5 ~~(bbb) One parent of a child currently enrolled in a publicly funded early~~
6 ~~learning center or prekindergarten program, selected by the state board.~~

7 (2) ~~The commission shall include nonvoting ex officio members who may~~
8 ~~advise and contribute to discussions pertaining to early childhood care and education,~~
9 ~~including but not limited to the following:~~

10 ~~(a) The chairmen of the House Committee on Education, Senate Committee~~
11 ~~on Education, House Committee on Health and Welfare, and Senate Committee on~~
12 ~~Health and Welfare, or their designees.~~

13 ~~(b) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his~~
14 ~~designee.~~

15 ~~(c) The state director of the Louisiana State Head Start Collaboration Project.~~

16 ~~(d) A representative of the state agency responsible for programs under~~
17 ~~Section 619 or Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.~~
18 ~~1419, 1431 et seq.).~~

19 ~~(e) The director of the Maternal and Child Health Program at the Louisiana~~
20 ~~Department of Health.~~

21 ~~(f) The director of the Child and Adult Care Food Program at the Department~~
22 ~~of Education.~~

23 ~~(g) The Louisiana State Fire Marshal, or his designee.~~

24 ~~(h) A representative from the office of sanitarian services at the Louisiana~~
25 ~~Department of Health.~~

26 ~~(i) A representative from Louisiana Works.~~

27 ~~(j) A representative from the Louisiana State Police Bureau of Criminal~~
28 ~~Identification and Information.~~

1 ~~(3)~~ (c) Determine a sustainable infrastructure to ensure quality programs
2 across providers. Such infrastructure shall include workforce and professional
3 development, monitoring and assessment, coordinated enrollment, and data-informed
4 decisionmaking.

5 ~~(4)~~ (d) Identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination among and
6 inefficiencies across governance structures of programs and agencies responsible for
7 development of children from birth through age four, including state agencies, local
8 community networks, and publicly funded programs.

9 ~~(5)~~ (e) Define a timeframe for achieving the vision and determine
10 benchmarks for the intervening years.

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

14 ~~(7)~~ (g) Gather and analyze data, laws, and policy in Louisiana and other
15 states where children are in the care of family child care providers and consider and
16 make recommendations relative to the incorporation of such providers into the early
17 childhood care and education network.

18 F. (2) Not later than ninety days following the end of each fiscal year, the
19 commission shall provide a report of its findings and recommendations ~~and the status~~
20 ~~of the implementation of its recommendations~~ to the governor, the members of the
21 legislature, the state superintendent of education, and the State Board of Elementary
22 and Secondary Education. The report shall include without limitation policy
23 recommendations of the commission, the status of the implementation of its
24 recommendations, and findings of the commission concerning system performance
25 and progress toward statewide goals.

26 ~~G.~~ F.(1) The commission shall provide input and guidance to the State
27 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of
28 Education on matters pertaining to the development and implementation of rules,
29 regulations, bulletins, policies, or standards related to all early care and education

1 programs, including early learning centers, enrollment in early learning centers, the
2 Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program, the Child Care and Development
3 Fund Block Grant, the Child Care Assistance Program, Early Head Start, and Head
4 Start.

5 (2) Prior to its submission to the United States Department of Health and
6 Human Services, the state Department of Education shall consult and provide a draft
7 of the state plan for the Child Care and Development Fund and its budget, and any
8 amendments to the state plan including budget revisions, and provide an opportunity
9 for the commission to make recommendations. Recommendations made by the
10 commission shall be reported to the state board.

11 (3) Prior to consideration by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
12 Education of any rule or standard related to early learning centers, enrollment in
13 early learning centers, the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program, the Child
14 Care and Development Fund Block Grant, or the Child Care Assistance Program, the
15 state Department of Education shall consult with and provide a draft of the proposed
16 rules to the commission and provide an opportunity for the commission to make
17 recommendations. Recommendations made by the commission shall be reported to
18 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education prior to their adoption. The
19 provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply to the adoption of emergency rules.
20 However, the state Department of Education shall notify the commission of any
21 meetings of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education at which
22 emergency rules pertaining to matters described in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection
23 will be considered. Such notification shall be given at the same time that public
24 notice of the meeting is given and shall include a draft of the proposed emergency
25 rule.

26 G. The commission shall meet at least ~~two times per year~~ quarterly, with the

27 meetings to be called by the chair or the state superintendent as needed. At each

28 meeting, the state Department of Education shall provide updates on how the

29 commission's recommendations are being implemented. The commission shall make

1 any further recommendations it deems necessary to advance the vision and goals
2 established pursuant to Subsection E of this Section.

3 * * *

4 I. The commission may establish such subcommittees as the commission
5 deems necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

6 J. The state Department of Education shall provide quarterly reports to the
7 commission on the implementation and progress, activities, and status of the Early
8 Childhood Care and Education Network. Any recommendations by the commission
9 shall be reflected in meeting minutes.

10 K. The state Department of Education shall provide the commission with
11 reports not less than annually of the following activities, provided that data is
12 available, pursuant to a schedule agreed upon by the chair and the state
13 superintendent of education:

14 (1) A description of each publicly funded early care and education program,
15 including the eligibility criteria, the program requirements, average number of hours
16 and days of the program, and the amount of total funding and source of funding for
17 each program. The description shall also include a specific description of the fee
18 structure for the Child Care Assistance Program.

19 (2) The number of children served in each publicly funded early childhood
20 care and education program in Louisiana, broken down by the age of the child and
21 amount of public funding per child per program.

22 (3) The number of early learning centers by each licensing type and at each
23 quality level as determined by the accountability system then in place, and the
24 number of children served at each age in each type at each quality level.

25 (4) Description of the training and support provided to each program and the
26 amount of funding for this by program and source of funds.

27 (5) Description of unmet family demand for early care and education in
28 Louisiana.

1 (6) Description of the goals for the upcoming fiscal year for early care and
2 education in Louisiana, including outcome indicators that will be used to measure
3 progress, and a description of the progress made in achieving the previous year's
4 goals.

5 (7) Description and results of any evaluations of the early care and education
6 programs in the state.

7 (8) Description of the early care and education workforce, including an
8 analysis of the status of the current early care and education workforce, including
9 demographics, certifications and education levels, participation and level on any
10 professional development ladder, and the participation in any teacher tax credits.
11 The description shall also include information about salaries and benefits, and a
12 comparison of these to similarly qualified employees in other but related fields, and
13 an analysis of the workforce capacity necessary to meet the state's early care and
14 education needs.

15 L. Any reports provided by the state Department of Education to the
16 commission and any commission recommendations shall be included in meeting
17 minutes.

18 Section 3. R.S. 17:407.51 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

19 Section 4. Each member serving on the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care
20 and Education pursuant to R.S. 17:407.51 on the effective date of this Act shall continue
21 serving on the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and each action,
22 recommendation, or report in progress on the effective date of this Act pursuant to R.S.
23 17:407.51 shall continue without interruption, all in accordance with the corresponding
24 provisions of R.S. 17:407.101 as provided in this Act.

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)]

HB 1146 Original

2026 Regular Session

Wyble

Abstract: Repeals statutory authority for the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education and transfers members, duties, and reports of the advisory council to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

Present law (R.S. 17:407.101) establishes and provides for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission (Commission). Provides for the appointment of 47 members. Provides for the duties of the commission. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 17:407.51) provides for the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education (Advisory Council). Provides for the following 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 the state board, 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 Louisiana Head Start Association.
- (5) Two representatives of local education agencies operating publicly funded early childhood programs other than Head Start, selected by the state board.
- (6) Two representatives of Louisiana 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 the state board.
- (8) One professional or faculty member having child development or early childhood education expertise from a Louisiana post-secondary education institution, selected by the commissioner of higher education.
- (9) The president of the Louisiana 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.
- (11) One representative of a Louisiana business or community organization, selected by the state board.

- (12) One parent of a child currently enrolled in a publicly funded early learning center or prekindergarten program, selected by the state board.

Proposed law repeals present law and includes these members as members of the Commission.

Present law provides that the following are 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 Department of Children and Family Services or his designee.
- (3) The state director of the Louisiana 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 Louisiana Department of Health.
- (6) The director of the Child and Adult Care Food Program at the Department of Education.
- (7) The Louisiana State Fire Marshal, or his designee.
- (8) A representative from the office of sanitarian services at the Louisiana Department of Health.
- (9) A representative from Louisiana Works.
- (10) A representative from the Louisiana State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides that the above members are nonvoting members of the Commission.

Present law provides that the Advisory Council shall provide input and guidance to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the state Department of Education (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.

Present law provides that prior to its submission to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, DOE shall consult and provide a draft of the state plan for the Child Care and Development Fund and its budget, and any amendments to the state plan including budget revisions, and provide an opportunity for the Advisory Council to make recommendations. Recommendations made by the Advisory Council shall be reported to the state board.

Present law provides that prior to consideration by BESE of any rule 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, DOE shall consult with and provide a draft of the proposed rules to the Advisory Council and provide an opportunity for the council to make recommendations.

Recommendations made by the commission shall be reported to BESE prior to their adoption. Provides that the provisions of present law not apply to the adoption of emergency rules. However, requires DOE to notify the commission of any meetings of BESE at which emergency rules pertaining to such matters will be considered. Requires such notification to be given at the same time that public notice of the meeting is given and shall include a draft of the proposed emergency rule.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides that such duties and requirements apply to the Commission instead of the Advisory Council.

Present law requires DOE to provide quarterly and annual reports to the Advisory Council. Specifies the required content of the reports. Proposed law repeals present law and requires DOE to provide such reports to the Commission instead of the Advisory Council. Provides that any reports provided by DOE to the Commission and any Commission recommendations shall be included in meeting minutes.

Proposed law authorizes the Commission to establish such subcommittees 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.

Proposed law provides that each member serving on the Advisory Council pursuant to present law on the effective date of proposed law shall continue serving on the Commission and each action, recommendation, or report in progress on the effective date of proposed law shall continue without interruption, all in accordance with the corresponding provisions of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 17:407.101(C)(1)(intro. para.) and (2) through (5), (E), (F), and (G); Adds R.S. 17:407.101(C)(1)(qq) through (bbb) and (6) and (I) through (L); Repeals R.S. 17:407.51)