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**HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

Amendments proposed by House Committee on Education to Original House Bill No. 954  
by Representative Leger

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1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, line 5, after "participation;" delete the remainder of the line, delete line 6, and on  
3 line 7, delete "Network;"

4 AMENDMENT NO. 2

5 On page 1, line 11, after "Program" delete the semicolon ";" and delete the remainder of the  
6 line and delete lines 12 through 19 and on page 2, delete lines 1 through 8 and insert the  
7 following:

8           "A. The state Department of Education, referred to in this Section as  
9           the "department", shall allocate funding, out of monies appropriated for such  
10           purpose, to each public school system that applies for such funding and uses  
11           the funding solely for the purpose of providing a program for early childhood  
12           development and enrichment activity classes in compliance with the  
13           requirements of this Section, which shall be named "The Cecil J. Picard LA  
14           4 Early Childhood Program" and shall be referred to in this Section as "the  
15           LA 4 program". Such classes shall be referred to in this Section as "LA 4  
16           classes"."

17 AMENDMENT NO. 3

18 On page 2, at the beginning of line 9, change "B.(1)" to "B."

19 AMENDMENT NO. 4

20 On page 2, line 9, after "funds," and before "shall" change "LA 4 programs" to "the LA 4  
21 program"

22 AMENDMENT NO. 5

23 On page 2, line 10, after "for" and before "a" change "LA 4 programs" to "the LA 4  
24 program"

25 AMENDMENT NO. 6

26 On page 2, at the beginning of line 12, change "(a)" to "(1)"

27 AMENDMENT NO. 7

28 On page 2, at the beginning of line 14, change "(b)" to "(2)"

29 AMENDMENT NO. 8

30 On page 2, at the beginning of line 16, change "(c)" to "(3)"

31 AMENDMENT NO. 9

32 On page 2, line 16, after "an" and before "program." change "an early childhood" to "the LA  
33 4"

1 AMENDMENT NO. 10

2 On page 2, delete lines 17 through 20

3 AMENDMENT NO. 11

4 On page 2, line 21, after "of" and before "shall" change "LA 4 programs" to "the LA 4  
5 program"

6 AMENDMENT NO. 12

7 On page 2, line 22, after "at risk," and before "shall" change "LA 4 programs" to "as  
8 defined in the rules and regulations of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
9 Education, referred to in this Section as the "state board", the LA 4 program"

10 AMENDMENT NO. 13

11 On page 2 line 23, after "care," delete the remainder of the line and delete lines 24 and 25

12 AMENDMENT NO. 14

13 On page 2, line 27, after "for the" and before "to" change "early learning center" to "public  
14 school system"

15 AMENDMENT NO. 15

16 On page 3, line 1, after "each" change "early learning center" to "public school system"

17 AMENDMENT NO. 16

18 On page 3, line 2, after "offering" and before "may" change "LA 4 programs" to "the LA 4  
19 program"

20 AMENDMENT NO. 17

21 On page 3, line 6, after "for" change "LA 4 programs." to "the LA 4 program."

22 AMENDMENT NO. 18

23 On page 3, line 8, after "support" and before "and" change "such programs," to "the  
24 program."

25 AMENDMENT NO. 19

26 On page 3, line 8, after "of" and before "to" change "early learning centers" to "public school  
27 systems"

28 AMENDMENT NO. 20

29 On page 3, line 9, after "receive" delete the remainder of the line and insert "funds for the  
30 program and"

31 AMENDMENT NO. 21

32 On page 3, line 12, after "in" and before "Subsection B" delete "Paragraph (1) of"

1 AMENDMENT NO. 22

2 On page 3, line 14, after "eligible" delete "early" and delete lines 15 and 16 and insert  
3 "public school systems."

4 AMENDMENT NO. 23

5 On page 3, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

6 "(c) The difference in dollar amount between the funding required  
7 to meet the measured funding demand and the funding available in the fiscal  
8 year.

9 E. Each participating school system may work collaboratively with  
10 other governmentally funded providers of early childhood education that  
11 serve children residing within the jurisdiction of the system, including Head  
12 Start and other federal programs, in providing the LA 4 program. Such  
13 collaboration may include agreements to share resources if such agreements  
14 are documented, no regulation of any provider is compromised or violated,  
15 and a clear demarcation of responsibility as to costs, employee supervision,  
16 and program administration is maintained.

17 F. (1) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and continuing  
18 thereafter, each participating school system may use at least ten percent of  
19 the total increase in funding for the LA 4 program received each year in  
20 excess of the amount received during the previous school year to provide LA  
21 4 classes through collaborative agreements with nonschool system providers  
22 of early childhood education that serve children residing within the  
23 geographic boundaries of the school system, that meet the definition of an  
24 early learning center as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, and that  
25 have attained the minimum quality rating as established by the state board  
26 required to be eligible to participate in the program.

27 (2) For the purposes of this Section, "early learning center" means  
28 any child day care center, Early Head Start Center, Head Start Center, or  
29 stand-alone prekindergarten program not attached to a school.

30 G. In addition to determining the demand for and distribution of  
31 funds for the LA 4 program, the state board shall assess all other funding  
32 streams in order to facilitate diverse delivery and fulfill demand to the  
33 greatest extent possible.

34 H. Each public school system operating the LA 4 program shall  
35 include or provide for the following:

36 (1) A full-day program for the hours of the day and the number of  
37 days that a regular school program in the school system is in session.

38 (2) A program of developmentally appropriate early childhood  
39 education, the content of which shall meet the standards required for  
40 accreditation of a high-quality early childhood education program as  
41 determined by the state board.

42 (3)(a) A teacher in each classroom, referred to in this Section as the  
43 "lead teacher", who is in charge of the classroom, supervises other adults  
44 employed in the classroom, plans the activities for the children in the  
45 classroom, and is:

46 (i) Certified by the department in nursery school education,  
47 kindergarten, or early intervention.

48 (ii) If the superintendent of the employing school system certifies by  
49 sworn affidavit that no qualified applicant with a certificate as provided in  
50 Item (i) of this Subparagraph has applied for the position, then certified by  
51 the department pursuant to rules adopted by the state board.

52 (iii) If the superintendent of the employing school system certifies by  
53 sworn affidavit that no qualified applicant with a certificate as provided in  
54 Item (i) or (ii) of this Subparagraph has applied for the position, then the  
55 recipient of a degree in elementary education, kindergarten, early childhood

1 education, or early intervention and employed pursuant to the interim  
2 emergency policy of the state board for hiring non-certified personnel.

3 (b) The employment, retaining, or reemployment of any person as a  
4 lead teacher who is qualified in any way other than as provided in Item (a)(i)  
5 of this Paragraph may occur only if such teacher can document consistently  
6 working toward obtaining the qualifications in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph  
7 in compliance with the requirements of state board rule or is otherwise  
8 deemed qualified in accordance with rules adopted by the state board.

9 (4) A student to lead teacher ratio of no more than twenty to one and  
10 a student to adult staff member ratio of no more than ten to one.

11 (5) Classroom and instructional supplies consistent with the standards  
12 required in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection and consistent with standards  
13 required by state board rule.

14 (6) Required professional development, in compliance with state  
15 board rule, for lead teachers and all other persons whose employment in the  
16 LA 4 program involves direct contact with children.

17 (7) Adequate and appropriate space and facilities.

18 I. The department shall:

19 (1) Provide technical assistance to each public school system  
20 operating the LA 4 program and ensure that each participating school system  
21 complies with the requirements of this Section and all rules adopted pursuant  
22 to this Section.

23 (2) Develop and implement a system of evaluating the efficiency and  
24 effectiveness of the LA 4 program and conduct a study of the long-term  
25 effects of the program on the school success of the participating children.

26 (3) Provide regular, scheduled, and appropriate professional  
27 development for lead teachers and all other persons whose employment in  
28 the LA 4 program involves direct contact with children pursuant to Paragraph  
29 (H)(6) of this Section."