

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.

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 1162 Original

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)