

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 584

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

FUNDS/FUNDING: Creates a special fund for the purpose of funding early childhood education in Louisiana

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:407.30, relative to funding of early childhood education; to create a special  
3 fund and dedicate funds for such purpose; to provide for allocation of such funds to  
4 local entities operating publicly funded education programs; to provide for  
5 administration; to provide for rules; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:407.30 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §407.30. Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund

9 A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special fund to be known  
10 as the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund, hereafter in this Section referred  
11 to as the "fund".

12 B.(1) Out of the funds remaining in the Bond Security and Redemption Fund  
13 after a sufficient amount is allocated from that fund to pay all obligations secured by  
14 the full faith and credit of the state which become due and payable within any fiscal  
15 year as required by Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the  
16 treasurer shall annually deposit in and credit to the fund from the state general fund  
17 ten million dollars.

18 (2) Any appropriations, public or private grants, gifts, or donations received  
19 by the state or the Department of Education for the purposes of this Section, other

1 than federal funds for the Child Care and Development Fund Program, shall also be  
2 credited to the fund.

3 C. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same  
4 manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest earned on the investment of  
5 monies in the fund shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. Unexpended and  
6 unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the  
7 fund.

8 D. The fund shall be administered by the State Board of Elementary and  
9 Secondary Education. Monies in the fund shall be awarded to city, parish, and other  
10 local school boards and to other local entities operating publicly funded early  
11 childhood education programs on a competitive basis for the purpose of funding  
12 early childhood programs for children aged three and under. No such award shall be  
13 made unless the local entity's financial commitment to the project proposed for  
14 funding provides matching funds from nonstate sources at a rate of at least two to  
15 one.

16 E. The board shall have the authority to determine the award recipients and  
17 the amount of the grant awards as well as other eligible expenses to be paid with  
18 monies from the fund. The board shall promulgate rules and regulations as are  
19 necessary to implement the provisions of this Section. Such rules shall include:

20 (1) Eligibility requirements of the entity seeking monies.

21 (2) Criteria for ranking and selecting applicants.

22 (3) Procedures for allocating monies.

23 (4) Reporting standards.

24 F. The department shall actively solicit and use resources to fund this grant  
25 program.

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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)]

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HB 584 Original

2017 Regular Session

Leger

**Abstract:** Creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund; dedicates state funds to the fund; provides for allocation of such funds to local entities operating publicly funded childhood education programs.

Proposed law creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund (fund) for the purpose of funding early childhood education programs for children three years old and under. The fund shall be funded annually in the amount of \$10 million from the state general fund out of funds remaining in the Bond Security and Redemption Fund after a sufficient amount is allocated to pay all obligations secured by the full faith and credit of the state which become due and payable within any fiscal year as required by present constitution. The fund may also be credited with any appropriations, public or private grants, or donations received by the state or the Department of Education (DOE) for purposes of the fund, not to include federal funds for the Child Care and Development Fund Program. DOE shall actively solicit and use resources to fund the grant program. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same manner as monies in the general fund. Interest earned shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. All unexpended unencumbered monies shall remain in the fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Monies shall be awarded on a competitive basis to city, parish and other local school boards and other local entities operating publicly funded early childhood education programs. No award shall be made unless local funding matches state funding at a rate of at least two to one.

The fund shall be administered by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). BESE may determine the grant recipients and the amount of the grant awards. The board shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the fund, including eligibility requirements of the entity seeking monies, criteria for ranking and selecting applicants, procedures for allocating monies, and reporting standards.

(Adds R.S. 17:407.30)