

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. Any appropriations, public or private grants, gifts, or donations received
13 by the state or the Department of Education for the purposes of this Section, other
14 than federal funds for the Child Care and Development Fund Program, shall be
15 credited to the fund.

16 C. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same
17 manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest earned on the investment of
18 monies in the fund shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. Unexpended and
19 unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the
20 fund.

1 D. The fund shall be administered by the State Board of Elementary and
2 Secondary Education. Monies in the fund shall be awarded to local entities approved
3 by the board for the purpose of funding early childhood care and education slots
4 through the Child Care Assistance Program in Type III early learning centers that
5 have at least one classroom with children age fifteen months or younger if a local
6 entity provides funds from nonstate sources. No such award shall be made unless
7 the local entity's financial commitment to the project proposed for funding provides
8 matching funds from nonstate sources at a rate of at least two to one.

9 E. If a local entity provides funding for the purpose of providing early
10 childhood care and education, the board may award additional funding in accordance
11 with the Child Care Assistance Program in the jurisdiction of the local entity. Any
12 such award shall not exceed fifty percent of the nonstate funds. Monies from the
13 fund shall not be used to displace, replace, or supplant the amount appropriated to
14 the Child Care Assistance Program.

15 F. The department shall actively solicit and use resources to fund the Child
16 Care Assistance Program slots.

17 G. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
18 promulgate rules and regulations to administer the distribution of monies from the
19 fund to the Child Care Assistance Program.

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 584 Reengrossed

2017 Regular Session

Leger

Abstract: Creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund and provides for awards to local entities for certain childhood education programs.

Proposed law creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund for the purpose of funding certain early childhood education programs. Provides that the fund shall be credited with any appropriations, public or private grants, or donations received by the state or the Department of Education (DOE) for such purpose, except for federal funds for the Child Care and Development Fund Program. Requires the state treasurer to invest monies in the fund in the same manner as monies in the general fund and that interest earned on such investment be deposited in and credited to the fund. Requires that unexpended and unencumbered monies remain in the fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Proposed law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to administer the fund. Requires that monies in the fund be awarded to BESE-approved local entities to fund early childhood care and education slots through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in Type III early learning centers that have at least one classroom with children age 15 months or younger if a local entity provides funds from nonstate sources. Prohibits an award from being made unless local funding matches state funding at a rate of at least two to one.

Proposed law authorizes BESE to award additional funding in accordance with CCAP in the local entity's jurisdiction. Prohibits such award from exceeding 50% of the nonstate funds and provides that monies from the fund shall not be used to displace, replace, or supplant the amount appropriated to CCAP.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Education to actively solicit and use resources to fund the CCAP slots and BESE to promulgate rules and regulations to administer the distribution of monies from the fund to CCAP.

(Adds R.S. 17:407.30)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the original bill:

1. Remove provision dedicating \$10 million from the state general fund to the fund.
2. Change potential recipients of grant funds from local entities operating publicly funded early childhood education programs for children age three and under to local entities providing early childhood care and education slots through the Child Care Assistance Program in Type III early learning centers that have at least one classroom with children 15 months or younger.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Delete provision requiring fund monies to be awarded on a competitive basis.
2. Add that BESE may, if a local entity provides funding, award additional funding in accordance with CCAP in the entity's jurisdiction and cap such additional award at 50% of the nonstate funds.
3. Delete provision authorizing BESE to determine award recipients and amounts.
4. Retain requirement that BESE promulgate rules but provide for a general requirement that rules pertain to administering the distribution of monies from the fund to CCAP instead of a list of specific rule parameters.