
DIGEST

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 676

2018 Regular Session

Hilferty

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Creates the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and pilot programs for community early childhood care and education networks

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Make technical changes.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law provides for the Early Childhood Care and Education Network, a comprehensive and integrated network through which the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) manages and oversees all programs funded through state and federal resources that provide early childhood care or educational services. Also establishes the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education (advisory council), which provides input and guidance to BESE and the state Dept. of Education on the development of publicly funded early care and education programs.

Proposed law creates the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission to study and create a vision for the future of early childhood care and education. Requires the commission to collect data, consider research and current practices, determine a sustainable infrastructure, identify opportunities for collaboration, and determine a time frame and necessary funding to achieve affordable access to quality care and education for all children from birth through age four. Requires the commission to meet and produce reports for submission to the governor, legislature, state superintendent of education, and BESE. Provides for 26 voting members and 12 non-voting members.

Proposed law provides for termination of the commission on March 31, 2020, and requires, beginning April 1, 2020, the advisory council to regularly evaluate and provide recommendations to support the implementation of the commission's plan.

Proposed law authorizes BESE to use public and private funds to create pilot programs in high-performing community networks to implement new strategies to increase access to and improve the quality of early childhood care and education programs. Requires pilot program findings to be used to inform statewide efforts to improve the effectiveness of local early childhood care and education programs.

(Amends R.S. 17:407.51(H); Adds R.S. 17:407.23(B)(6) and (D) and 407.101 and R.S. 36:651(G)(6); Repeals R.S. 17:407.23(D)(3) and 407.101 and R.S. 36:651(G)(6))