

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 367

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Provides relative to pupil appraisal and services for children transitioning from EarlySteps to services provided by the local public school system upon their third birthday

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:1944(G), relative to pupil appraisal; to provide for the transition of children
3 with disabilities from services provided through EarlySteps to services provided by
4 local education agencies; to provide for the responsibilities of EarlySteps and local
5 education agencies; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:1944(G) is enacted to read as follows:

8 §1944. Local education agency; responsibilities

9 * * *

10 G.(1) Each month, EarlySteps shall submit a list of all children who are
11 participating in EarlySteps as provided in Chapter 4-B of Title 28 of the Louisiana
12 Revised Statutes of 1950 and who are reaching the age of two-and-a-half that month
13 to the local education agency for the area in which the child resides.

14 (2) Each local education agency shall:

15 (a) Coordinate with each child's parent relative to scheduling any
16 conferences necessary for appraising the child and conducting any other activity
17 necessary for facilitating the child's transition from EarlySteps to preschool or other
18 appropriate services, including but not limited to facilitating a process through which
19 the local education agency may directly coordinate with the child's early learning

1 center relative to scheduling and conducting appraisals and conferences relative to
2 the child's transition at the early learning center.

3 (b) Conduct pupil appraisals year-round for the purpose of assisting parents
4 in scheduling appraisals and developing an appropriate plan for each child prior to
5 the beginning of each school year.

6 (c) Ensure that there is not a delay either in conducting a child's appraisal nor
7 beginning to provide services to an eligible child solely because his third birthday
8 falls during the summer months.

9 (d) Take all measures necessary to coordinate with EarlySteps personnel and
10 parents to facilitate a smooth and seamless transition for each child upon reaching
11 his third birthday.

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 367 Original

2023 Regular Session

Phelps

Abstract: Provides for children's transition from receiving services through EarlySteps to receiving services from local education agencies.

Present law provides for EarlySteps, the state's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities, and for pupil appraisal conducted by local public school systems, referred to in present law as local education agencies.

Proposed law requires that EarlySteps monthly submit a list of children who are participating in EarlySteps and who are reaching the age of two-and-a-half that month to the local education agency for the area in which the child resides. Proposed law requires each local education agency to:

- (1) Coordinate with parents relative to scheduling any appraisal conferences and facilitating the transition from EarlySteps to preschool or other appropriate services.
- (2) Conduct appraisals year-round to assist parents in scheduling and developing an appropriate plan for each child prior to the beginning of each school year.
- (3) Ensure that there is not a delay either in conducting an appraisal nor beginning to provide services to an eligible child solely because his third birthday falls during the summer months.
- (4) Take all measures necessary to coordinate with EarlySteps personnel and parents to facilitate a smooth transition for each child upon reaching his third birthday.

(Adds R.S. 17:1944(G))