

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 445

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

FUNDS/FUNDING. Provides relative to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:407.30(B) and (D)(1)(a) and R.S. 39:82(J), relative to funding
3 for early childhood education; to provide relative to the Louisiana Early Childhood
4 Education Fund; to provide relative to deposits into the fund; to provide for the
5 remission of cash balances to the state treasurer at the close of each fiscal year; to
6 provide for exceptions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:407.30(B) and (D)(1)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
10 as follows:

11 §407.30. Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund

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

15 B. **After satisfying the requirements of the Bond Security and**
16 **Redemption Fund as provided in Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution**
17 **of Louisiana, except as otherwise provided by law, monies shall be deposited**

1 into the fund as follows:

2 (1) The avails of the monies provided for in R.S. 39:82(J).

3 (2) Beginning July 1, 2027, at the beginning of each fiscal year, the state
4 treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to transfer from the state general
5 fund the difference between thirty million dollars and the unencumbered
6 balance in the fund at the beginning of the fiscal year immediately prior. In no
7 event shall any such deposit be greater than thirty million dollars in any given
8 fiscal year. Monies shall be utilized for the purpose of matching one-to-one
9 grants provided for in this Section that have received the approval of the Board
10 of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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

15 * * *

16 D.(1)(a) The fund shall be administered by the State Board of Elementary and
17 Secondary Education. ~~Subject to legislative appropriation, monies~~ **Monies** in the
18 fund shall be awarded annually to local entities approved by the board for the
19 purpose of funding projects that will expand the number of early childhood care and
20 education quality slots for families who are eligible for the Child Care Assistance
21 Program in Type III early learning centers that have at least one classroom with
22 children age fifteen months or younger if a local entity provides funds from nonstate
23 and nonfederal sources. No such award shall be made unless the local entity's
24 financial commitment to the project proposed for funding provides matching funds
25 from nonstate and nonfederal sources at a rate of at least one-to-one.

26 * * *

27 Section 2. R.S. 39:82(J) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
28 §82. Remission of cash balances to the state treasurer; authorized withdrawals of
29 state monies after the close of the fiscal year; reports

* * *

J. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, ~~the office of behavioral health, Louisiana Department of Health, may retain any unexpended funds in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 28:26~~ **the treasurer shall deposit all cash balances of any state funds occurring from any appropriations made by legislative act or the Interim Emergency Board to the Department of Education at the end of each fiscal year into the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund. Provided, however, the provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to any dedicated funds that would otherwise be retained by the respective funds or state funds for which a bona fide liability exists on the last day of each fiscal year.**

* * *

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without the signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

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Present law establishes the La. Early Childhood Education Fund as a special treasury fund administered by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Present law provides for sources of monies for the fund, including:

- (1) A portion of monies generated from casino gaming operations revenues. (R.S. 27:270)
- (2) A portion of monies generated from taxes levied on sports wagering. (R.S. 27:625)
- (3) A portion of monies generated from taxes levied on fantasy sports wagering. (R.S. 27:316)
- (4) A portion of royalty fees collected on the New Orleans Pelicans special prestige license plate. (R.S. 47:463.213)

- (5) A portion of monies generated from taxes levied on consumable hemp products. (R.S. 47:1696)
- (6) Appropriations, public or private grants, gifts, or donations. (R.S. 17:407.30)

Proposed law adds two sources of monies to the fund:

- (1) All cash balances of any state funds in the Dept. of Education, with the exception of any dedicated funds, for which no bona fide liability exists on the last day of each fiscal year.
- (2) Annual deposits of state general fund from the treasurer equal to the difference between thirty million dollars and the unencumbered balance in the fund at the beginning of the previous fiscal year.

Present law provides that subject to appropriation, monies in the fund shall be awarded annually to local entities to fund projects that expand the number of early childhood care and education quality slots for families eligible for certain Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in Type III early learning centers.

Proposed law removes the verbiage requiring these funds be subject to legislative appropriation and otherwise retains present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:407.30(B) and (D)(1)(a) and R.S. 39:82(J))