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

SB 445 Original | 2026 Regular Session | Pressly

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))