

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 657

BY SENATOR BUFFINGTON

FUNDS/FUNDING. Authorizes public or private entities to make certain donations to participating school systems for children enrolled in the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program classes. (7/1/14)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:407.26, relative to financial assistance for participating school systems  
3 with early childhood programs; to authorize public or private entities to make certain  
4 donations to students enrolled in the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program  
5 classes; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:407.26 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§407.26. The Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program; early childhood**  
9 **development and enrichment activity classes; financial assistance**

10 **A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section to the contrary,**  
11 **any public or private entity, including any nonprofit organization, may make**  
12 **a directed donation to any participating school district for a student who is**  
13 **enrolled in Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program classes.**

14 **B.(1) Recognizing the success and growth of the Cecil J. Picard LA 4**  
15 **Early Childhood Program and in order to maintain the long-term financial**  
16 **stability of the program, private businesses, industry, foundations, charities,**  
17 **and other groups may request from the division of administration that,**

1 notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, they may create privately  
2 funded scholarship programs to make payments to participating school districts  
3 on behalf of qualified students. If the division of administration were to  
4 approve a private scholarship program then any scholarship funds received by  
5 an eligible college or university from a private scholarship program on behalf  
6 of a student shall cause a reduction in the dollar amount of the allocation to the  
7 participating school district such that the allocation shall be an amount that is  
8 equal to the dollar amount that the allocation would have been if no private  
9 scholarship funds had been received less the amount of private scholarship  
10 funds received by the participating school district.

11 (2) This Subsection shall in no way be interpreted in such a manner that  
12 a participating school district would receive less benefits from a combination of  
13 the allocation from the program and the private scholarship funds received than  
14 it would have received solely from the allocation if there had been no private  
15 scholarship funded. Therefore, to the extent that any privately funded  
16 scholarship funds provided for in this Subsection made to a participating school  
17 district are for an amount less than the amount the participating school district  
18 would have otherwise received as an allocation if no such private scholarship  
19 funds had been paid under this Subsection, then the participating school district  
20 shall receive that difference as an allocation under the program.

21 (3) As provided in this Subsection, when a participating school district  
22 receives privately funded scholarship funds pursuant to this Subsection, the  
23 annual appropriation of state funds for the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early  
24 Childhood Program shall be reduced by the amount of the private scholarship  
25 program funds so received. The state treasurer shall deposit the amount of the  
26 reduction as specified by the commissioner of administration into the  
27 Overcollections Fund created in R. S. 39:100.21 and credit the deposit to an  
28 account within the fund hereby established and created to be known as the  
29 "Program Participation Savings Account".

1           Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014; if vetoed by the governor  
 2 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
 3 2014, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jay R. Lueckel.

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#### DIGEST

Buffington (SB 657)

Present law establishes the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program to serve participating city, parish, and other local public school systems. Provides for eligibility, requirements, and funding provisions.

Proposed law retains present law and also provides that any public or private entity, including any nonprofit organization, may make a directed donation to any participating school district for a student who is enrolled in Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program classes.

Proposed law enacts new section of law for financial assistance relative to the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program.

Proposed law provides that private businesses, industry, foundations, charities, individuals and other groups may request the division of administration to create a privately funded scholarship program to make payments to participating school districts on behalf of qualified students.

Proposed law requires that the new private scholarship program shall in no way be interpreted in such a manner that a participating school district would receive less benefits from the private scholarship than it would have from the existing Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program had there been no private scholarship program.

Proposed law further provides that when an eligible school district receives private scholarship funds, the annual appropriation of state funds shall be reduced by the amount of the private scholarship funds so received. The state treasurer shall deposit the amount of the reduction as specified by the commissioner of administration into the Overcollections Fund and credit the deposit to an account in the fund known as the "Program Participation Savings Account".

Effective July 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 17:407.26)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the original bill

1. Enacts new section of law for financial assistance relative to the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program.
2. Adds a new section to the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program that private businesses, industry, foundations, charities, individuals and other groups may request the division of administration to create a privately funded scholarship program to make payments to participating school districts on

behalf of qualified students.

3. Provides that the new private scholarship program shall in no way be interpreted in such a manner that a participating school district would receive less benefits from the private scholarship than it would have from the existing Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program had there been no private scholarship program.
4. Relative to the scholarship programs for the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program, provides that when an eligible school district receives private scholarship funds, the annual appropriation of state funds shall be reduced by the amount of the private scholarship funds so received. The state treasurer shall deposit the amount of the reduction as specified by the commissioner of administration into the Overcollections Fund and credit the deposit to an account in the fund known as the "Program Participation Savings Account".