

SENATE BILL NO. 657

BY SENATOR BUFFINGTON

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 law to the contrary, any**
11 **public or private entity, including any nonprofit organization, may make a**
12 **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,**
18 **notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, they may create privately**
19 **funded scholarship programs to make payments to participating school districts**
20 **on behalf of qualified students. If the division of administration were to**
21 **approve a private scholarship program then any scholarship funds received by**
22 **a participating school district from a private scholarship program on behalf of**
23 **a student shall cause a reduction in the dollar amount of the allocation to the**

1 participating school district such that the allocation shall be an amount that is
2 equal to the dollar amount that the allocation would have been if no private
3 scholarship funds had been received less the amount of private scholarship
4 funds received by the participating school district.

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

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

27 C. Nothing in this Section shall be construed or implemented in a
28 manner that would cause the loss of any federal or other funding for any early
29 childhood programs or services, including but not limited to the Cecil J. Picard
30 LA 4 Early Childhood Program and the Child Care and Development Fund.

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.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____