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**HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

2016 Regular Session

Substitute for Original House Bill No. 1061 by Representative Gary Carter as proposed by the House Committee on Education

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**This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.**

To enact R.S. 17:24.10, relative to early childhood education; to provide for the establishment of a pilot program for providing early childhood education; to provide for student eligibility for participation in the program; to provide for program administration, implementation, and funding; to provide for program evaluation, monitoring, and reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:24.10 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§24.10. Early childhood education; three-year-old children; pilot program

A. The state Department of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall establish and provide for the implementation of a pilot program, referred to as the "LA 3 program", which shall be a community-based program for providing early childhood education to certain three-year-old children. The purposes of the pilot program are to study and determine the following:

(1) The educational and other elements necessary for three-year-old children to achieve and for providing high quality care and education programs for such children.

(2) The components of care and education programs that are important to parents of three-year-old children.

(3) The importance and feasibility of expanding access to care and education programs for three-year-old children.

B. To be eligible to participate in the program, a child shall meet all of the following criteria:

(1) Is three years old or will be eligible to enroll in kindergarten in two school years pursuant to R.S. 17:151.3.

(2) Is "at risk" as defined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

(3) Is not enrolled in a publicly funded early childhood program as provided pursuant to R.S. 17:407, et seq.

C. The program shall be administered by the state Department of Education in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for early childhood education programs pursuant to R.S. 17:407, et seq. An early childhood education provider choosing to participate in the program shall be a Type III early learning center as provided in R.S. 17:407.36(C).

D. The state Department of Education shall monitor and evaluate the program and shall submit a written report of such evaluation results, including but not limited to the performance and progress of each child participating in the program, and all funding information for the program, including any unexpended funds, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education by not later than May first of each year of the program. The final report submitted by the department shall include recommendations by the department as to whether the program should continue as a pilot program or be implemented statewide.

E. The pilot program as provided in this Section shall be implemented subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

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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)]

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HB Draft

2016 Regular Session

**Abstract:** Provides for the establishment of a community-based pilot program for providing early childhood education to certain three-year-old children. Provides for program administration, monitoring, and evaluation by the state Dept. of Education.

Proposed law requires the state Dept. of Education, with the approval of the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), to establish and provide for the

implementation of a community-based pilot program, the "LA 3 program", for providing early childhood education. Provides that program implementation is subject to the appropriation of funds.

Provides for student eligibility criteria as follows:

- (1) Is three years old or will be eligible to enroll in kindergarten in two school years pursuant to present law (relative to kindergarten entrance age requirements).
- (2) Is "at risk" as defined by BESE.
- (3) Is not enrolled in a publicly funded early childhood program.

Provides that the pilot program shall be administered by the state Dept. of Education in accordance with rules adopted by BESE for early childhood education programs. Requires that an early childhood education provider choosing to participate in the pilot program shall be a Type III licensed early learning center as provided in present law.

Requires the state Dept. of Education to monitor and evaluate the program and to annually submit a written report of evaluation results including but not limited to the performance and progress of each child participating in the program and all funding information for the program including any unexpended funds. Requires that the final report include recommendations by the department as to whether the program should continue as a pilot program or be implemented statewide.

(Adds R.S. 17:24.10)