
DIGEST

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HB 676 Original

2018 Regular Session

Hilferty

Abstract: Creates the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission (commission) to establish a vision for accessible, quality early childhood care and education to be implemented through pilot programs established by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) at the community network level.

Present law establishes the Early Childhood Care and Education Network, created by BESE as a comprehensive and integrated network through which BESE may manage and oversee all programs funded through state and federal resources that provide early childhood care or educational services.

Present law establishes the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education (Advisory Council), which shall provide input and guidance to BESE and the dept. of Education on the development of publicly funded early care and education programs.

Proposed law creates the commission and provides for membership of 23 voting members and 11 non-voting members. The commission shall study and create a vision for the future of publicly funded early childhood care and education. Requires the commission to collect data, consider research and current practices, determine a sustainable infrastructure, identify opportunities for collaboration, and determine a timeframe and necessary funding to achieve affordable access to quality care and education for all children from birth through age four. Requires the commission to meet and produce reports for submission to the governor, legislature, state superintendent of education, and BESE.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall be repealed on March 31, 2020, at which point the Advisory Council shall regularly evaluate and provide recommendations to support the implementation of the plan established by the commission.

Proposed law authorizes BESE to use available public and private funds to create pilot programs in high-performing community networks to implement new strategies to increase access to and improve the quality of early childhood care and education programs. The findings from the pilot programs shall be used to inform statewide efforts to improve the effectiveness of local publicly funded early childhood care and education programs. A community network participating in a pilot shall measure, establish, and identify certain information set out in proposed law to enable BESE to evaluate in performance of pilot programs.

(Amends R.S. 17:407.51(H); Adds R.S. 17:407.23(B)(6) and (D) and 407.100 and R.S. 36:651(G)(6); Repeals R.S. 17:407.23(D)(3) and 407.100 and R.S. 36:651(G)(6))