
DIGEST

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HB 584 Original

2017 Regular Session

Leger

Abstract: Creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund; dedicates state funds to the fund; provides for allocation of such funds to local entities operating publicly funded childhood education programs.

Proposed law creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund (fund) for the purpose of funding early childhood education programs for children three years old and under. The fund shall be funded annually in the amount of \$10 million from the state general fund out of funds remaining in the Bond Security and Redemption Fund after a sufficient amount is allocated to pay all obligations secured by the full faith and credit of the state which become due and payable within any fiscal year as required by present constitution. The fund may also be credited with any appropriations, public or private grants, or donations received by the state or the Department of Education (DOE) for purposes of the fund, not to include federal funds for the Child Care and Development Fund Program. DOE shall actively solicit and use resources to fund the grant program. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same manner as monies in the general fund. Interest earned shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. All unexpended and unencumbered monies shall remain in the fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Monies shall be awarded on a competitive basis to city, parish and other local school boards and other local entities operating publicly funded early childhood education programs. No award shall be made unless local funding matches state funding at a rate of at least two to one.

The fund shall be administered by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). BESE may determine the grant recipients and the amount of the grant awards. The board shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the fund, including eligibility requirements of the entity seeking monies, criteria for ranking and selecting applicants, procedures for allocating monies, and reporting standards.

(Adds R.S. 17:407.30)