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## DIGEST

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HB 584 Reengrossed

2017 Regular Session

Leger

**Abstract:** Creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund and provides for awards to local entities for certain childhood education programs.

Proposed law creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund for the purpose of funding certain early childhood education programs. Provides that the fund shall be credited with any appropriations, public or private grants, or donations received by the state or the Department of Education (DOE) for such purpose, except for federal funds for the Child Care and Development Fund Program. Requires the state treasurer to invest monies in the fund in the same manner as monies in the general fund and that interest earned on such investment be deposited in and credited to the fund. Requires that unexpended and unencumbered monies remain in the fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Proposed law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to administer the fund. Requires that monies in the fund be awarded to BESE-approved local entities to fund early childhood care and education slots through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in Type III early learning centers that have at least one classroom with children age 15 months or younger if a local entity provides funds from nonstate sources. Prohibits an award from being made unless local funding matches state funding at a rate of at least two to one.

Proposed law authorizes BESE to award additional funding in accordance with CCAP in the local entity's jurisdiction. Prohibits such award from exceeding 50% of the nonstate funds and provides that monies from the fund shall not be used to displace, replace, or supplant the amount appropriated to CCAP.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Education to actively solicit and use resources to fund the CCAP slots and BESE to promulgate rules and regulations to administer the distribution of monies from the fund to CCAP.

(Adds R.S. 17:407.30)

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

#### The House Floor Amendments to the original bill:

1. Remove provision dedicating \$10 million from the state general fund to the fund.
2. Change potential recipients of grant funds from local entities operating publicly funded

early childhood education programs for children age three and under to local entities providing early childhood care and education slots through the Child Care Assistance Program in Type III early learning centers that have at least one classroom with children 15 months or younger.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Delete provision requiring fund monies to be awarded on a competitive basis.
2. Add that BESE may, if a local entity provides funding, award additional funding in accordance with CCAP in the entity's jurisdiction and cap such additional award at 50% of the nonstate funds.
3. Delete provision authorizing BESE to determine award recipients and amounts.
4. Retain requirement that BESE promulgate rules but provide for a general requirement that rules pertain to administering the distribution of monies from the fund to CCAP instead of a list of specific rule parameters.