

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 353 (HB 584)

2017 Regular Session

Leger

New 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 Dept. 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.

New 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.

New law authorizes BESE to award additional funding in accordance with CCAP in the local entity's jurisdiction. Prohibits the award from exceeding 50% of the nonstate funds and prohibits monies from the fund from being used to displace, replace, or supplant the amount appropriated to CCAP.

New law requires the DOE 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.

New law creates the Achieving a Better Life Experience in Louisiana Fund (ABLE Fund) and provides for the deposit of the assets of the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority reserved for the payment of the obligations of the authority pursuant to its agreements with ABLE program account owners into the fund.

New law provides that money in the ABLE Fund shall be used for the ABLE program in existing law including to assist individuals and families in saving private funds for the purpose of supporting persons with disabilities.

Effective August 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 17:407.30 and 3090)