

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 395

2019 Regular Session

Steve Carter

FUNDS/FUNDING: Provides relative to a special fund for the purpose of funding early childhood education

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Relative to projects for which funds may be used, require that such projects expand early childhood care and education *for families who are eligible* for the Child Care Assistance Program rather than *through* the Child Care Assistance Program.
2. Add provisions relative to eligibility criteria for early childhood care and education opportunities funded by local funds.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law establishes the La. Early Childhood Education Fund as a special treasury fund administered by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Provides that the fund shall be credited with appropriations, public or private grants, or donations received by the state or the Dept. of Education for such purpose except federal funds for the Child Care and Development Fund Program. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that money from the fund shall be used to award funding to local entities for early childhood care and education through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Proposed law provides instead that money from the fund shall be used to award funding to local entities for early childhood care and education for families who are eligible for CCAP rather than requiring that the care and education be provided through the CCAP.

Present law requires that the local entity provide matching funds from nonstate sources at a rate of at least two to one. Proposed law provides that federal funds may not be used as matching funds and changes the minimum match rate to 1:1. Otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law requires that each local entity establish eligibility criteria for the early childhood care and education quality opportunities financed with its matching funds; requires that one criterion be that the child is from an economically disadvantaged family.

Proposed law authorizes BESE, if there is money in the fund after the board has funded every qualifying project pursuant to present law, to award remaining monies in the fund for the exclusive use of Type III early learning centers to provide quality care for children who are eligible for CCAP and who are ages birth through two. Requires BESE to consider the following in selecting recipients of such an award: the CCAP waiting list, child poverty rates, child care needs in terms of the economic development needs of the parish where the center is located, and increasing the availability of high quality early learning centers statewide.

Present law authorizes BESE to award additional funding in accordance with CCAP in a local entity's jurisdiction. Prohibits the award from exceeding 50% of the nonstate funds. Proposed law removes present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:407.30(D) and (E))