AN ACT

To enact Part X-B of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:407.41 through 407.46, relative to early childhood education enrollment coordination; to provide for definitions; to provide for prohibitions; to authorize local enrollment coordination entities; to provide for responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and approved local enrollment coordination entities; to provide for funding of approved local enrollment coordination entities; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Part X-B of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:407.41 through 407.46, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

PART X-B. LOUISIANA EARLY LEARNING

ENROLLMENT COORDINATION

§407.41. Definitions

As used in this Part, the following definitions shall apply:

A. "Coverage area" means the parish, parishes, or other geographical area within the jurisdiction of a local early learning enrollment coordinator.

B. "Department" means the state Department of Education.

C. "Local early learning enrollment coordinator" means an approved entity that conducts a process for informing families about publicly-funded and

Type III licensed early childhood care and education programs in the coverage
area; collects family preferences; develops and uses a common application
process; annually determines demand for publicly-funded early childhood care
and education within the coverage area; and makes recommendations to the
department for the distribution of available publicly-funded early childhood
care and education slots for at-risk children within its coverage area.

D. "State Board" means the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
Education.

§407.42. Authorization of local early learning enrollment coordinators

A. Prior to authorizing local early learning enrollment coordinators, the
state board shall:

(1) By September 1, 2014:

(a) Provide the governing authority of each public school system and
each early learning center, nonpublic school which provides publicly-funded
early childhood services, and Head Start grantee located within the geographic
boundaries of the public school system with an assessment of the extent to which
these providers of early childhood services coordinate their efforts to:

(i) Inform families about the availability of publicly-funded and Type
III licensed early childhood care and education programs serving students four
years of age or younger.

(ii) Coordinate enrollment, eligibility criteria, and waiting lists to ensure
that families are referred to other available publicly-funded early childhood
programs should they be ineligible for or unable to access their primary choice.

(iii) Collect family preferences regarding enrollment choices for
publicly-funded and Type III licensed early childhood care and education
programs.

(iv) Enroll at-risk children, using available public funds, based upon
stated family preferences.

(b) Provide public school systems, early learning centers, nonpublic
schools, Early Head Start grantees, and Head Start grantees with a designated
time period in which the local early enrollment coordination activities will be
(2) By October 1, 2015:

(a) Publish a list of public school systems within whose geographic boundaries there is no coordinated effort by the public school system and the early learning centers, nonpublic schools which provide publicly-funded early childhood services, and Head Start grantees to:

(i) Inform families about the availability of publicly-funded and Type III licensed early childhood care and education programs serving students four years of age or younger.

(ii) Coordinate enrollment, eligibility criteria, and waiting lists to ensure that families are referred to other available publicly-funded early childhood programs should they be ineligible for or unable to access their primary choice.

(iii) Collect family preferences regarding enrollment choices for publicly-funded and Type III licensed early childhood care and education programs.

(iv) Enroll at-risk children, using available public funds, based upon stated family preferences.

(b) Provide public school systems, early learning centers, nonpublic schools, Early Head Start grantees, and Head Start grantees with a designated time period in which the local early enrollment coordination activities will be developed and implemented.

(3) By June 30, 2015, approve a process to authorize entities as local early learning enrollment coordinators to begin performing required services in the geographic boundaries of public school systems identified pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, in the 2015-2016 school year.

(4) Not certify any entity as a local early learning enrollment coordinator under this Section unless it is in compliance with procedures and regulations established by the state board. The entity shall be a state agency, a public school system, a nonprofit or for-profit corporation having an educational or social services mission, including but not limited to a nonprofit
corporation of a philanthropic or policy nature, a Louisiana public
postsecondary education institution, or a nonprofit corporation established by
the governing authority of a parish or municipality.

(5) Review each proposed local early learning enrollment coordinator
in a timely manner and determine whether each proposed local early learning
enrollment coordinator complies with the law and rules and whether the
proposal is valid, complete, and financially well-structured.

(6) Approve a process by which the department serves as the local early
learning enrollment coordinator for those coverage areas without an approved
entity.

(7) Promulgate rules establishing an appeals process and designating the
department to oversee the process through which families and early learning
centers have the opportunity to appeal decisions made by local early learning
enrollment coordinators.

B.(1) The initial authorization of a local early learning enrollment
coordinator shall be for a period up to five years.

(2) After the initial authorization period, the state board may grant
renewal of authorization for additional periods of not less than three years nor
more than five years after thorough review of the local early learning
enrollment coordinator activities.

§407.43. Responsibilities of approved local early learning enrollment
coordinators

In accordance with R.S. 17:407.22, local early learning enrollment
coordinators shall support families in accessing high-quality publicly-funded
early childhood care and education by:

(1) Conducting a process for disseminating information about early
childhood care and education programs and collecting family preferences in
order to make distribution recommendations.

(2) Using a common application process, annually determine family
demand for publicly-funded early childhood care and education within the
(3) Providing a recommendation to the department of the distribution
of available publicly-funded early childhood care and education slots within the
coverage area.

§407.44. Funding of approved local early learning enrollment coordinators

A.(1) For a coverage area identified by the state board as requiring an
early learning enrollment coordinator, the department shall allocate not more
than one percent of the public funds appropriated for each early childhood care
and education program in the coverage area to support the local early learning
enrollment coordinator in performing the services required by this Part.

However, Head Start programs shall fund their respective recruitment,
selection, and enrollment system mandated by applicable federal laws,
regulations, standards, and grant requirements. Head Start programs shall
collaborate with local schools and early learning centers to conduct combined
recruitment enrollment activities as defined in R.S. 17:407.42.

(2) The amount allocated from the funding for each early childhood care
and education program shall be proportionate to the number of children in the
program enrolled by the local early learning enrollment coordinator for the
coverage area.

(3) If an allocation cannot be made from a funding stream to support the
early learning enrollment coordinator for a coverage area, the amount
established for that funding stream to support the early learning enrollment
coordinator shall be allocated from the remaining program funding streams in
an amount proportionate to the number of children in each program enrolled
by the local early learning enrollment coordinator for the coverage area.

(4) The state board shall not allocate additional funds to support early
learning enrollment coordinators, as provided in Paragraph (3) of this
Subsection, from the funding stream for any early childhood care and education
program that has a per-child allocation or subsidy below the state average
per-child allocation or subsidy for all programs included in the enrollment
system.

(5) The department may use funds allocated pursuant to this Subsection to support any local enrollment pilot programs during the 2014-2015 school year in order to inform the establishment of rules adopted by the state board on or before June 30, 2015.

B. The department may establish start-up or incubation grants to encourage sufficient supply of high-quality local early learning enrollment coordinators.

C. The local early learning enrollment coordinator shall annually submit to the department an independent financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant who has been approved by the legislative auditor. Such audit shall be accompanied by the auditor's statement that the report is free of material misstatements. The audit shall be limited in scope to those records necessary to ensure that the local early learning enrollment coordinator has used funds to perform required services, and it shall be submitted to the legislative auditor for review and investigation of any irregularities or audit findings. The local early learning enrollment coordinator shall return to the state any funds that the legislative auditor determines were expended in a manner inconsistent with state law or state board regulations. The cost of such audit shall be paid by the department from funds provided pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

§407.45. Rules

The state board shall adopt all rules and regulations required in this Part in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

§407.46. Compliance

Nothing in this Part shall prevent any Head Start grantee or Early Head Start grantee from complying with all applicable federal laws, regulations, standards, and grant requirements.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________