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## DIGEST

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HB 1146 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Wyble

**Abstract:** Repeals statutory authority for the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education and transfers members, duties, and reports of the advisory council to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

Present law (R.S. 17:407.101) establishes and provides for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission (Commission). Provides for the appointment of 45 members. Provides for the duties of the Commission. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 17:407.51) provides for the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education (Advisory Council). Provides for the following voting members:

- (1) Two representatives of Type III early learning centers, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (2) One representative of a Type II early learning center, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (3) One representative of a Type I early learning center, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (4) Two representatives of Head Start programs, one of which shall be operated by a local education agency and selected by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and one of which shall be operated by a nonlocal education agency and selected by the state superintendent of education from a list of three persons nominated by the La. Head Start Association.
- (5) Two representatives of local education agencies operating publicly funded early childhood programs other than Head Start, selected by BESE.
- (6) Two representatives of La. nonprofit advocacy organizations having a focus on early childhood education, selected by the state superintendent.
- (7) Two representatives of approved nonpublic schools with publicly funded early childhood care and education programs, selected by BESE.
- (8) One professional or faculty member having child development or early childhood education

expertise from a La. postsecondary education institution, selected by the commissioner of higher education.

- (9) The president of the La. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, or his designee.
- (10) One representative of an advocacy or service organization that focuses on serving children with disabilities, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (11) One representative of a La. business or community organization, selected by BESE.
- (12) One parent of a child currently enrolled in a publicly funded early learning center or prekindergarten program, selected by BESE.

Proposed law repeals present law and includes these members as members of the Commission.

Present law provides that the following are nonvoting members of the Advisory Council:

- (1) The chairmen of the House Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Education, House Committee on Health and Welfare, and Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or their designees.
- (2) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or his designee.
- (3) The state director of the La. State Head Start Collaboration Project.
- (4) A representative of the state agency responsible for programs under Section 619 or Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.).
- (5) The director of the Maternal and Child Health Program at the La. Dept. of Health.
- (6) The director of the Child and Adult Care Food Program at the State Dept. of Education.
- (7) The La. State Fire Marshal, or his designee.
- (8) A representative from the office of sanitarian services at the La. Dept. of Health.
- (9) A representative from La. Works.
- (10) A representative from the La. State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides that the above members are nonvoting members of the Commission.

Present law provides that the Advisory Council shall provide input and guidance to BESE and the state Dept. of Education (DOE) on matters pertaining to the development and implementation of

rules, regulations, bulletins, policies, or standards related to all early care and education programs, including early learning centers, enrollment in early learning centers, the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program, the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant, the Child Care Assistance Program, Early Head Start, and Head Start.

Present law provides that prior to its submission to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, DOE shall consult and provide a draft of the state plan for the Child Care and Development Fund and its budget, and any amendments to the state plan including budget revisions, and provide an opportunity for the Advisory Council to make recommendations. Recommendations made by the Advisory Council shall be reported to the state board.

Present law provides that prior to consideration by BESE of any rule or standard related to early learning centers, enrollment in early learning centers, the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program, the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant, or the Child Care Assistance Program, DOE shall consult with and provide a draft of the proposed rules to the Advisory Council and provide an opportunity for the council to make recommendations. Recommendations made by the commission shall be reported to BESE prior to their adoption. Provides that the provisions of present law not apply to the adoption of emergency rules. However, requires DOE to notify the commission of any meetings of BESE at which emergency rules pertaining to such matters will be considered. Requires such notification to be given at the same time that public notice of the meeting is given and shall include a draft of the proposed emergency rule.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides that such duties and requirements apply to the Commission instead of the Advisory Council.

Present law requires DOE to provide quarterly and annual reports to the Advisory Council. Specifies the required content of the reports. Proposed law repeals present law and requires DOE to provide such reports to the Commission instead of the Advisory Council. Provides that any reports provided by DOE to the Commission and any Commission recommendations shall be included in meeting minutes.

Proposed law authorizes the Commission to establish such subcommittees as the Commission deems necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties and responsibilities. Provides that the voting members of the Commission shall elect a chair or provide for co-chairs if deemed necessary to provide for effective governance. Provides that the Commission shall meet at least quarterly, with meetings called by the chair or the state superintendent as needed.

Proposed law provides that each member serving on the Advisory Council pursuant to present law on the effective date of proposed law shall continue serving on the Commission and each action, recommendation, or report in progress on the effective date of proposed law shall continue without interruption, all in accordance with the corresponding provisions of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 17:407.101(C)(1)(intro. para.) and (2)-(5), (E), (F), and (G); Adds R.S. 17:407.101(C)(1)(qq)-(bbb) and (6) and (I)-(L); Repeals R.S. 17:407.51)