

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 395

2019 Regular Session

Steve Carter

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

DIGEST

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) to award funding to local entities for early childhood care and education through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). 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.

Present law requires that monies in the fund be awarded to BESE-approved local entities to fund early childhood care and education projects through CCAP in Type III early learning centers that have at least one classroom with children age 15 months or younger. 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 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 waitlist, 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.

Proposed amendment requires local entities to establish eligibility criteria for the early childhood care and education quality slots financed by local funds that serve as the match for the award. At a minimum, only children whose family income makes them economically disadvantaged as defined by the board shall be eligible for the slots.

Present law authorizes BESE, subject to legislative appropriation, 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))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the reengrossed bill

1. Clarifies that the withdrawal of monies from the fund are subject to legislative appropriation.
2. Requires local entities to establish eligibility criteria for the early childhood care and education quality slots financed by local funds that serve as the match for the award.
3. Provides at a minimum, only children whose family income makes them economically disadvantaged as defined by the board shall be eligible for the slots.