

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 240

BY SENATOR BARROW

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED. Provides relative to early learning centers. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.8(A)(2) and (B), 407.33(5) and (7), 407.34, 407.35(A), 407.36(D), 407.40(A)(7) and (B)(1)(b) and to enact R.S. 17:407.36(E), 407.42(A)(3), 407.51(A)(13), and 407.101(C)(1)(qq) and (rr), relative to early learning centers; to provide licensure requirements for all prekindergarten programs; to create a Type IV early learning center license; to provide for Type IV license requirements for early learning centers attached to a school; to provide for exemptions from certain licensure requirements for Type IV early learning centers; to provide for criminal background check requirements; to provide for Type IV early learning center membership on certain advisory councils and commissions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:24.8(A)(2) and (B), 407.33(5) and (7), 407.34, 407.35(A), 407.36(D), 407.40(A)(7) and (B)(1)(b) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:407.36(E), 407.42(A)(3), 407.51(A)(13), and 407.101(C)(1)(qq) and (rr) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§24.8. Prekindergarten programs

1 registered family child day care homes, and care given without charge. ~~However, all~~
2 ~~prekindergarten programs shall comply with the child safety and welfare minimum~~
3 ~~standards provided for in R.S. 17:407.41.~~

4 * * *

5 §407.36. Types of Licenses

6 * * *

7 **D. A "Type IV license" is the type of license issued to any early learning**
8 **center which is attached to a school.**

9 ~~D.E.~~ Nothing in this Section shall prevent an early learning center otherwise
10 qualified for a Type I license to voluntarily seek a Type II or Type III license, or an
11 early learning center otherwise qualified for a Type II license to voluntarily seek a
12 Type III license, provided that such early learning center meets the standards set
13 forth for such license.

14 * * *

15 §407.40. Rules, regulations and standards for licenses

16 A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate
17 regulations for each type of license which, at a minimum, shall accomplish all of the
18 following:

19 * * *

20 (7) Include requirements for employees of early learning centers to receive
21 training in recognition and prevention of shaken baby syndrome. The Louisiana
22 Department of Health, office of public health, shall provide information and
23 resources to the state Department of Education for such training and for other areas
24 of training required for employees of early learning centers in promoting the health,
25 safety, and welfare of children. The state Department of Education shall post such
26 information and resources on its website so that it is easily accessible by employees
27 of early learning centers. **The requirement provided for in this Paragraph shall**
28 **not apply to a Type IV early learning center.**

29 B.(1) Every early learning center approved for licensure by the department

1 shall be required to have all of the following:

2 * * *

3 (b) Approval from the Louisiana Department of Health. **A Type IV early**
4 **learning center shall be inspected by the Louisiana Department of Health**
5 **pursuant to the rules and regulations applicable to schools.**

6 * * *

7 §407.42. Review of criminal history information and state central registry of child
8 abuse and neglect

9 A. * * *

10 **(3) The provisions of Subsection B of this Section shall not apply to a**
11 **Type IV early learning center employee who has complied with the criminal**
12 **history background check and state central registry check provisions provided**
13 **for in R.S. 17:15.**

14 * * *

15 §407.51. Advisory Council

16 A. The board shall establish an Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care
17 and Education that shall consist of the following members:

18 * * *

19 **(13) A representative of Type IV early learning centers, selected by the**
20 **state superintendent of education.**

21 * * *

22 §407.101. Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

23 * * *

24 C.(1) The commission is composed of ~~forty-five~~ **forty-seven** members as
25 follows:

26 * * *

27 **(qq) One representative of Type IV early learning centers, appointed by**
28 **the president of the Senate.**

29 **(rr) One representative of Type IV early learning centers, appointed by**

Proposed law adds a representative of a Type IV early learning center selected by the state superintendent of education to the council.

Present law creates the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and provides for the membership of the commission.

Proposed law adds a representative of a Type IV early learning center appointed by the president of the Senate and a representative of a Type IV early learning center appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives to the commission.

Present law requires all school employees and early learning center employees to undergo a criminal background check and state central registry check prior to employment by the school or early learning center.

Proposed law provides that early learning center background check requirements shall not apply to any Type IV early learning center employee who has complied with the criminal history background check and state central registry check requirements to be employed by the school attached to the early learning center.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.8(A)(2) and (B), 407.33(5) and (7), 407.34, 407.35(A), 407.36(D), 407.40(A)(7) and (B)(1)(b); adds R.S. 17:407.36(E), 407.42(A)(3), 407.51(A)(13), and 407.101(C)(1)(qq) and (rr))