

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 351

BY SENATOR JACKSON-ANDREWS

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. Provides relative to children and family assistance programs. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:407.30(D)(1) and 407.51(H)(1), relative to the State Board
3 of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide relative to the Child Care
4 Assistance Program; to provide relative to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education
5 Fund; to provide relative to the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and
6 Education; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:407.30(D)(1) and 407.51(H)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted
9 to read as follows:

10 §407.30. Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund

11 * * *

12 D.(1)(a) The fund shall be administered by the State Board of Elementary and
13 Secondary Education. Subject to legislative appropriation, monies in the fund shall
14 be awarded annually to local entities approved by the ~~board~~ **State Board of**
15 **Elementary and Secondary Education** for the purpose of funding projects that will
16 expand the number of early childhood care and education quality slots for families
17 who are eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program in Type III early learning

1 centers that have at least one classroom with children age fifteen months or younger
2 if a local entity provides funds from nonstate and nonfederal sources. No such award
3 shall be made unless the local entity's financial commitment to the project proposed
4 for funding provides matching funds from nonstate and nonfederal sources at a rate
5 of at least one-to-one.

6 (b) Each local entity shall establish eligibility criteria for the early childhood
7 care and education quality slots financed by local funds that serve as the match for
8 the award. At a minimum, only children whose family income makes them
9 economically disadvantaged as defined by the ~~board~~ **State Board of Elementary**
10 **and Secondary Education** shall be eligible for the slots.

11 * * *

12 §407.51. Advisory Council

13 * * *

14 H.(1) The council shall provide input and guidance to the ~~board~~ **State Board**
15 **of Elementary and Secondary Education** and the department on matters pertaining
16 to the development and implementation of rules, regulations, bulletins, policies, or
17 standards related to all early care and education programs, including early learning
18 centers, enrollment in early learning centers, the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early
19 Childhood Program, the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant, the Child
20 Care Assistance Program, Early Head Start, and Head Start.

21 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 351 Original 2026 Regular Session Jackson-Andrews

Present law (R.S. 17:407.30) provides that the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund must be administered by BESE and the monies awarded annually to local entities approved by the board for the purpose of funding projects that will expand the number of early childhood care and education quality slots for families eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program under certain conditions.

Present law provides that each local entity must establish eligibility criteria for the early

childhood care and education quality slots financed by local funds that serve as the match for the award and, at a minimum, only children whose family income makes them economically disadvantaged as defined by the board will be eligible for the slots.

Present law (R.S. 17:407.51) provides that the Advisory Council must provide input and guidance to the board and the department on matters pertaining to the development and implementation of rules, regulations, bulletins, policies, or standards related to all early care and education programs, including the Child Care Assistance Program.

Proposed law retains all present law and clarifies that "board" means the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Effective on August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:407.30(D)(1) and 407.51(H)(1))