
DIGEST

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HB 1146 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Wyble

Abstract: Repeals statutory authority for the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education and transfers some members and the 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 duties of the Commission. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for the membership of the Commission. Proposed law retains present law except as provided below:

- (1) One representative of a municipality that receives Head Start funding, appointed by the governor. Proposed law removes this member.
- (2) One representative of a Head Start program, appointed by the governor.
- (3) One representative of a child advocacy or community organization, appointed by the governor.
- (4) One representative of a disability advocacy organization, appointed by the governor.
- (5) One representative of the governor's office, appointed by the governor.
- (6) One business representative, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (7) One local school superintendent, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (8) One representative of Type III early learning centers, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (9) One representative of a child advocacy or community organization, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives. Proposed law instead provides for this member to be appointed by For Providers, By Providers.
- (10) One parent of a child in a publicly funded child daycare center, Early Head Start Center, Head Start Center, or stand-alone prekindergarten program, appointed by the speaker of the

House of Representatives. Proposed law refers to an "early learning" center instead of a "child daycare" center.

- (11) Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (12) One business representative, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (13) One local school superintendent, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (14) One representative of Type III early learning centers, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (15) One representative of a child advocacy or community organization, appointed by the president of the Senate. Proposed law removes this member.
- (16) One parent of a child in a publicly funded child daycare center, Early Head Start Center, Head Start Center, or stand-alone prekindergarten program, appointed by the president of the Senate. Proposed law refers to an "early learning" center instead of a "child daycare" center.
- (17) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (18) Two representatives of high-performing community early childhood care and education networks, appointed by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) upon recommendation of the state superintendent of education.
- (19) One representative of a nonpublic school participating in a publicly funded early childhood care and education program, appointed by the BESE.
- (20) A member appointed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, La. Chapter.
- (21) One person with professional expertise in the operations of a family care center, appointed by the governor. Proposed law replaces this member with a representative of a family child care provider that is Child Care Assistance Program-certified with academic approval, appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- (22) One early care and education researcher from a public postsecondary education institution, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (23) One representative from either a Type I or Type II early learning center, appointed by the president of the Senate. Proposed law removes the option relative to the type of center and provides for one representative of a Type I early learning center.
- (24) One representative of maternal, infant, and early childhood home visitation programs within the Bureau of Family Health, appointed by the secretary of the La. Department of Health.

- (25) One representative of the Early Steps program within the Bureau of Family Health, appointed by the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health.
- (26) One representative of early childhood programs within the state Dept. of Education (DOE), appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- (27) One representative of the La. Head Start Collaboration Office, appointed by the state superintendent of education. Proposed law replaces this member with the director of the office.
- (28) One representative of the special education programs within DOE, appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- (29) A staff member of the Board of Regents, appointed by the board.
- (30) The secretary of La. Works, or his designee.
- (31) The secretary of La. Economic Development, or his designee.
- (32) The secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services, or his designee.
- (33) One professional with expertise in the socioemotional development and well-being of children from birth through age four, appointed by the governor.
- (34) One early intervention researcher from a La. public postsecondary education institution, appointed by the Bd. of Regents.
- (35) One early childhood education researcher from a La. public postsecondary education institution, appointed by the Bd. of Regents.
- (36) One member of BESE, appointed by the BESE president.
- (37) One early childhood development and education specialist, appointed by the president of the Center for Development and Learning. Proposed law refers to this organization instead as the Center for Literacy and Learning.
- (38) One member of the La. Educational Television Authority, appointed by the chairman of the authority.
- (39) One representative of a nongovernmental economic development organization, appointed by the CEO of the Committee of 100 for Economic Development, Inc. Proposed law changes the appointing authority to the CEO of Leaders for a Better La.
- (40) One representative of a child advocacy organization, appointed by the executive director of the La. Policy Institute for Children. Proposed law changes the appointing authority to the

CEO of this institute.

- (41) The president and CEO of the La. Association of Business and Industry, or his designee.
- (42) The executive director of the Child Care Association of Louisiana, or his designee. Proposed law replaces this member with a child care provider appointed by the association's board of directors.

Proposed law also adds one representative from a child care resource and referral agency, appointed by BESE, to the commission membership.

Present law (R.S. 17:407.51) provides for the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education (Advisory Council). Provides for 17 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 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 but provides that the following five of the above members are voting members of the Commission:

- (1) One representative of a Type III early learning center, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (2) One representative of Type II early learning centers, selected by the state superintendent of education.
- (3) One representative of local education agencies operating publicly funded early childhood programs other than Head Start, selected by BESE.
- (4) 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.
- (5) One parent of a child currently enrolled in a publicly funded early learning center or prekindergarten program, selected by BESE.

Present law provides for the following 13 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 Dept. 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 but provides that the following nine of the above members are nonvoting members of the Commission:

- (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 director of the Maternal and Child Health Program at the La. Dept. of Health.
- (3) The director of the Child and Adult Care Food Program at the State Dept. of Education.
- (4) The La. State Fire Marshal, or his designee.
- (5) A representative from the office of sanitarian services at the La. Dept. of Health.
- (6) A representative from the La. State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.

Present law provides that the Advisory Council shall provide input and guidance to BESE and 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 BESE.

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 do 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 provides that commission members may attend and participate in meetings via electronic means in accordance with present law (R.S. 42:17.2).

Proposed law authorizes the Commission to establish such work groups 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 the commission is designated as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children from birth to school entry for purposes of present federal law.

Proposed law provides that 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.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:407.101(C), (E), (F), and (G); Adds R.S. 17:407.101(I)-(M); Repeals R.S. 17:407.51)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Revise commission membership and remove provision that all Advisory Council members shall serve as Commission members.
2. Add that the Commission is designated as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children from birth to school entry for purposes of present federal law.
3. Provide for the Commission to have work groups instead of subcommittees.
4. Add that Commission members may attend and participate in meetings via electronic

means in accordance with present law.

5. Add an effective date.