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 DIGEST

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SB 351 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Jackson-Andrews

Proposed law provides that an expectant mother may apply for assistance from the Child Care Assistance Program prior to birth of the child in order to preliminarily determine whether the applicant will be eligible. Requires the Dept. of Education to develop a process to determine provisional eligibility of an applicant and to later confirm eligibility after the birth of the child. Provides that this process is subject to approval by the Senate and House committees on education, meeting separately or jointly. Provides for rulemaking by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for proposed law implementation.

Present law provides for the La. Early Childhood Education Fund, which is administered by BESE, and for the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education, which is established by BESE. Proposed law changes references to "the board" within present law to BESE and otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the "Working Mothers' Support Act".

(Amends R.S. 17:407.30(D)(1) and 407.51(H)(1); Adds R.S. 17:407.29.1)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Provides a process for expectant mothers to apply to the Child Care Assistance Program prior to birth of a child to determine provisional eligibility.
3. Authorizes Department of Education to develop the process to determine provisional eligibility and to later confirm eligibility, which must be approved by the Senate and House committees on education.
4. Authorizes the department to promulgate rules and regulations.
5. Designates this Act as the "Working Mothers' Support Act".

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill:

1. Provide that committee approval can occur with the committees meeting separately or jointly.
2. Provide for rulemaking by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education instead of the Dept. of Education.