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## DIGEST

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HB 584 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Leger

**Abstract:** Creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund and provides for allocation of such funds to local entities for the funding of Early Child Care Assistance Program slots. Creates the Achieving a Better Life Experience in Louisiana Fund to be used for the ABLF program.

Proposed law creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund (fund) for the purpose of funding early childhood care and education slots. The fund may be credited with any appropriations, public or private grants, or donations received by the state or the Department of Education (DOE) for purposes of the fund, not to include federal funds for the Child Care and Development Fund Program. DOE shall actively solicit and use resources to fund Child Care Assistance Program slots. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same manner as monies in the general fund. Interest earned shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. All unexpended and unencumbered monies shall remain in the fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Monies shall be awarded on a competitive basis to local entities approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to fund Child Care Assistance Program slots in Type III centers with at least one classroom with children age 15 months or younger. No award shall be made unless local funding matches state funding at a rate of at least two to one.

BESE may determine the grant recipients and the amount of the grant awards. BESE shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the fund, including eligibility requirements of the entity seeking monies, criteria for ranking and selecting applicants, procedures for allocating monies, and reporting standards.

Proposed law creates the Achieving a Better Life Experience in Louisiana Fund (ABLE Fund) and provides for the deposit of the assets of the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority reserved for the payment of the obligations of the authority pursuant to its agreements with ABLF program account owners into the fund.

Proposed law provides that money in the ABLF Fund shall be used for the ABLF program in present law including to assist individuals and families in saving private funds for the purpose of supporting persons with disabilities.

(Adds R.S. 17:407.30 and 3090)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill:

1. Delete dedication of \$10 million of state general fund into the La. Early Childhood Education Fund.
2. Change entities that may be awarded monies from the La. Early Childhood Education Fund.
3. Require funding out of the La. Early Childhood Education Fund to be provided for Child Care Assistance Program slots.
4. Add creation of the Achieving a Better Life Experience in Louisiana Fund.