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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 awards to local entities for certain childhood education programs.

Proposed law creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund (fund) for the purpose of funding certain early childhood education programs. 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. 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 an 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 Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for the purpose of funding early childhood care and education slots through the Child Care Assistance Program in Type III early learning centers that have 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.

The fund shall be administered by BESE, which shall determine the grant recipients and the amount of the grant awards. The board 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.

(Adds R.S. 17:407.30)

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

#### The House Floor Amendments to the original bill:

1. Remove provision dedicating \$10 million from the state general fund to the fund.
2. Change potential recipients of grant funds from local entities operating publicly funded early childhood education programs for children age three and under to local entities providing early childhood care and education slots through the Child Care Assistance Program in Type III early learning centers that have at least one classroom with children 15 months or younger.