

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 584

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

FUNDS/FUNDING: Creates a special fund for the purpose of funding early childhood education in Louisiana

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:407.30, relative to funding of early childhood education; to create a special
3 fund and dedicate funds for such purpose; to provide for allocation of such funds to
4 local entities operating publicly funded education programs; to provide for
5 administration; to provide for rules; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:407.30 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §407.30. Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund

9 A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special fund to be known
10 as the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund, hereafter in this Section referred
11 to as the "fund".

12 B. Any appropriations, public or private grants, gifts, or donations received
13 by the state or the Department of Education for the purposes of this Section, other
14 than federal funds for the Child Care and Development Fund Program, shall be
15 credited to the fund.

16 C. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same
17 manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest earned on the investment of
18 monies in the fund shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. Unexpended and
19 unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the
20 fund.

1 D. The fund shall be administered by the State Board of Elementary and
 2 Secondary Education. Monies in the fund shall be awarded on a competitive basis
 3 to local entities approved by the board for the purpose of funding early childhood
 4 care and education slots through the Child Care Assistance Program in Type III early
 5 learning centers that have at least one classroom with children age fifteen months or
 6 younger. No such award shall be made unless the local entity's financial
 7 commitment to the project proposed for funding provides matching funds from
 8 nonstate sources at a rate of at least two to one.

9 E. The board shall have the authority to determine the award recipients and
 10 the amount of the grant awards as well as other eligible expenses to be paid with
 11 monies from the fund. The board shall promulgate rules and regulations as are
 12 necessary to implement the provisions of this Section. Such rules shall include:

13 (1) Eligibility requirements of the entity seeking monies.

14 (2) Criteria for ranking and selecting applicants.

15 (3) Procedures for allocating monies.

16 (4) Reporting standards.

17 F. The department shall actively solicit and use resources to fund the Child
 18 Care Assistance Program slots.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

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.