

ACT No. 198

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 304

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:407.23(E) and (F) and 407.30(D)(3), relative to early childhood care and
3 education; to require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to
4 coordinate data relative to the early childhood care and education network and to
5 submit an annual report relative thereto to the legislature; to require the board to
6 consider such data when allocating awards from the Louisiana Early Childhood
7 Education Fund; to require the board to create a program for the purpose of making
8 instructional materials available to children who are not enrolled in the early
9 childhood care and education network; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 17:407.23(E) and (F) and 407.30(D)(3) are hereby enacted to read
12 as follows:

13 §407.23. Early Childhood Care and Education Network; creation; components;
14 duties and responsibilities; pilot programs

15 * * *

16 E.(1) The state board shall coordinate and report data relative to the early
17 childhood care and education network in a manner that assists legislators in
18 evaluating the effectiveness of the network and in determining the most efficient and
19 effective allocation of funding and services to maximize opportunities for children
20 aged birth through five to achieve kindergarten readiness.

21 (2) The state board shall submit to the House Committee on Education,
22 Senate Committee on Education, House Committee on Appropriations, and Senate
23 Committee on Finance a written report not later than sixty days prior to each regular
24 session of the legislature. The report shall include, at minimum, the following
25 information:

1 (a) The number of children participating in the network and demographic
2 information pertaining to their age, race, and socioeconomic status.

3 (b) The areas of greatest need according to geographic location and student
4 population for the purpose of prioritizing funding and services.

5 F. The state board shall create a program to be administered by the state
6 Department of Education through which parents whose children are not enrolled in
7 an early learning center due to the lack of available seats or funding are able to
8 access instructional materials in order to provide instruction to the children at home.
9 The department shall use the data ascertained in accordance with Subsection E of
10 this Section in order to conduct outreach to communities and families in need of such
11 materials and to identify the most effective and efficient means to deliver these
12 materials. These materials shall be aligned to the birth to five early learning and
13 development standards adopted by the state board in order to maximize the children's
14 opportunity to achieve kindergarten readiness.

15 * * *

16 §407.30. Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund

17 * * *

18 D.

19 * * *

20 (3) In addition to the requirements of Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this
21 Subsection, the board, when determining how to allocate awards pursuant to this
22 Section, shall consider the data it coordinates pursuant to R.S. 17:407.23(E).

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____