



Early Learning Fellows Legislative Corner

April 2018

Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Commission



Representative Stephanie Hilferty (R-La.), a sixth year (2017) NCSL Early Learning Fellow, introduced [HB 676](#) in Louisiana’s current session. HB 676 would create the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

If created, the commission, will study, make recommendations and provide a report to the Legislature about strategies to increase access to and improve the quality of early childhood care

and education programs. Hilferty says “it is wonderful to see such bipartisan support for this bill, and I am happy to have so many co-sponsors, many of whom participated in NCSL’s Early Learning Fellows program, join me on this important legislation.” Hilferty said she introduced HB 676 because “almost half of Louisiana children are starting kindergarten behind, and this bill would allow for stakeholders in the Louisiana Department of Education, educators, the governor’s office, Louisiana Legislature and members of the business community to come together to form the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.”

The bill has moved out of the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Education Committee. Louisiana’s regular session ends June 4. NCSL will continue to track the bill’s progression.

Birth-to-Three for All D.C. Amendment Act



Fellows from the 2017 cohort might recall **Councilmember Robert C. White Jr.** (D-D.C.) leaving the kickoff meeting in Omaha, Neb., early to introduce his Bolstering Early Growth Investment Amendment Act or the BEGIn Act. After joining forces with another councilmember, the BEGIn Act evolved into the Birth-to-Three for All D.C. Amendment

Act. If enacted, the bill will make child care more affordable for families, help child care providers navigate government bureaucracy

Prenatal-to-Three Legislative Advisory Group

The National Conference of State Legislatures is creating a Prenatal-to-Three Legislative Advisory Group. This bipartisan group of eight-to-10 state legislators, three-to-four researchers and NCSL staff will create a framework to help support legislative work in states on prenatal-to-3 policy issues. The group will develop a legislative framework that outlines specific roles and policy options for legislators across the country to consider when advancing prenatal-to-three legislation.

The group will meet in May and July and will release a framework with policy options for infants and toddlers in December.

Are you participating in state activities that you would like to share? Let us know so we can include it in the next Legislative Corner. Email

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when opening and maintaining child development facilities, and strengthen pre- and post-natal support for district mothers. The act passed the first full council vote with an overwhelming majority, and the final vote is scheduled for June.

White had the following to share about his work: “With my daughter, Madison, born on the campaign trail, and seeing how much her young brain absorbed, I was inspired to write the BEGIn Act to create more birth-to-3 education opportunities for all district children, especially those from low-income families. ...As a father I personally understood the burden of paying for child care, with the average monthly cost exceeding \$1,800 for one child, so I also wrote the BEGIn Act to decrease costs to families. The Birth-to-Three for All D.C. Amendment Act will help stabilize the critical early childhood education workforce, and I see this bill as a step toward universal early childhood education in D.C.”

White will be a member of NCSL’s newly formed Prenatal-to-Three Legislative Advisory Group.

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