



Early Learning Fellows Legislative Corner

September 2018



Louisiana Early Childhood Learning Caucus

Senator Wesley Bishop (D-La.), a 2018 NCSL Early Learning Fellow, introduced [Resolution 5](#) during Louisiana's most recent legislative session. Resolution 5 would have established the Louisiana Early Childhood Learning Caucus.

Senator Bishop said he drafted the resolution "to galvanize Democrats, Republicans and Independents around the central idea that we want to lead the nation in providing quality early educational opportunities for every child in the State of Louisiana. Our children and families deserve our absolute best."

Though the resolution, which was filed late in the session, was not enacted, it pulled together policymakers from both sides of the aisle, and in that sense was a step forward. Senator Regina Barrow (D) and Representative Polly Thomas (R), who are also 2018 Early Learning Fellows and 2017 Early Learning Fellow Senator Beth Mizell (R) co-sponsored the resolution. Bishop intends to file a concurrent resolution in time to get through both houses in 2019.

Secretary of Early Childhood Education



Representative Terri Collins (R-Ala.), a 2014 NCSL Early Learning Fellow authored [HB 71](#) during the 2018 session. The bill amended current statute to establish minimum qualifications for gubernatorial appointees to the office of Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood Education.

Following passage of the bill, Representative Collins said, "Alabama has a top-ranked First Class Pre-K program with a proven record of improving student outcomes...and we are proud of this program and the excellent Office of Early Learning that leads it. Keeping the Secretary of Early Learning position with equally high standards and qualifications was important."

Early Learning Fellows Are Not Alone

NCSL's Early Learning Fellows program is a model being replicated in other areas. In 2018 NCSL welcomed the first cohort of [Opioid Policy Fellows](#) and [Child Welfare Fellows](#), and a Maternal and Child Health Fellows program will launch in 2019.

Like the [Early Learning Fellows](#), participants are selected through a rigorous application process and attend two face-to-face meetings and two webinars.

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 alison.may@ncsl.org.

HB 71 requires that appointees meet the following requirements:

- Master's degree or completion of at least 36 hours of post baccalaureate course work in early childhood education or child development.
- Significant educational supervision and management experience including ages birth through eight.
- Certification in education administration and supervision is preferred, but not required.

Collins is also a member of NCSL's Prenatal-to-Three Legislative Advisory Group.

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