

AN ACT relating to young children's learning and development.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Illinois Early Learning Council Act.

Section 5. Illinois Early Learning Council. The Illinois Early Learning Council is hereby created to coordinate existing programs and services for children from birth to 5 years of age in order to better meet the early learning needs of children and their families. The goal of the Council is to fulfill the vision of a statewide, high-quality, accessible, and comprehensive early learning system to benefit all young children whose parents choose it. The Council shall guide collaborative efforts to improve and expand upon existing early childhood programs and services. This work shall include making use of existing reports, research, and planning efforts.

Section 10. Membership. The Illinois Early Learning Council shall include representation from both public and private organizations, and its membership shall reflect regional, racial, and cultural diversity to ensure representation of the needs of all Illinois children. One member shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and other members appointed by the Governor. The Governor's appointments shall include without limitation the following:

(1) A leader of stature from the Governor's office, to serve as co-chairperson of the Council.

(2) The chief administrators of the following State agencies: State Board of Education; Department of Human Services; Department of Children and Family Services; Department of Public Health; Department of Public Aid; Board of Higher Education; and Illinois Community College Board.

(3) Local government stakeholders and nongovernment stakeholders with an interest in early childhood care and education, including representation from the following private-sector fields and constituencies: early childhood education and development; child care; child advocacy; parenting support; local community collaborations among early care and education programs and services; maternal and child health; children with special needs; business; labor; and law enforcement. The Governor shall designate one of the members who is a nongovernment stakeholder to serve as co-chairperson.

In addition, the Governor shall request that the Region V office of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families appoint a member to the Council to represent federal children's programs and services.

Members appointed by General Assembly members and members appointed by the Governor who are local government or nongovernment stakeholders shall serve 3-year terms, except that of the initial appointments, half of these members, as determined by lot, shall be appointed to 2-year terms so that terms are staggered. Members shall serve on a voluntary, unpaid basis.

Section 15. Accountability. The Illinois Early Learning Council shall annually report to the Governor and General

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Assembly on the Council's progress towards its goals and objectives.

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.