

HB 4066 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

Prepared By: Christopher Reinhart, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the Early Childhood Equity Innovation Fund. Appropriates \$2.5 million for the fund. Allows the Early Learning Division to use the fund for grants to culturally specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs. Establishes criteria for programs to receive grants. Becomes effective July 1, 2018.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Renames fund as Early Childhood Equity Fund. Alters grant criteria. Requires program evaluation to include measurement of outcomes that align with culturally specific approaches.

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Council's (ELC) guiding principles include operating with cultural responsiveness in the best interest of children and their families and promoting equity in access and allocation of resources to and cultural responsiveness for populations furthest from opportunity. The ELC's 2015-2020 strategic plan includes tactics such as developing a contracting approach that advances equity goals; providing accountability to an equity plan; and using data to allocate resources, by taking race, poverty, and service access/outcome disparities into consideration.

HB 4066 creates the Early Childhood Equity Innovation Fund to allow the Early Learning Division (ELD) to make grants to culturally specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs. Grant recipients must demonstrate a proven ability to provide outreach, support, and resources to children and families of ethnicities that are not currently served or are underserved by existing programs, including those who are African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-American, and of multiracial descent. ELD must regularly evaluate and report on grants to the Legislative Assembly. The Department of Education, in consultation with ELD, must adopt rules that include grant eligibility requirements.