

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB495

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 495 would provide funds from the Education Innovation Fund to support early childhood education grant programs. The bill would allocate \$1.75 million in FY 2013-14, \$1.85 million in FY 2014-15, and \$1.95 million in FY 2015-16 from the Education Innovation Fund to the early childhood education grant program administered by the State Department of Education, which supports public programs for children age three through the age of kindergarten eligibility.

An additional \$1 million would be transferred from the Education Innovation Fund to the Early Childhood Endowment Cash Fund in FYs 2013-14 through 2015-16 for grants to public school programs that serve at-risk children from birth to age three. Allocations from the Education Innovation Fund in FYs 2013-14 through 2015-16 for the integrated student information system, the Center for Student Leadership and Extending Learning Act, multicultural education, and employment costs for individuals who investigate and prosecute alleged teacher and administrator certificate violations would be eliminated. The bill contains intent language to replace these allocations with appropriations from the General Fund.

The bill would also clarify that a biannual report regarding early childhood grant programs pertains both to programs administered by the State Department of Education and the board of trustees of the early childhood education endowment.

The bill would require the Legislature's Education Committee to hold a public hearing on the report. The bill would also clarify that the limit on the percentage of the appropriation to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program that can be

withheld for evaluation and technical assistance under section 79-1103 applies to programs administered by the Department.

The bill would outright repeal section 79-1102.01, which allowed children who were eligible for kindergarten to enroll in certain early childhood programs for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kate Sullivan