§ 26-24-1. Department established and renamed.

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Title 26. INFANTS AND INCOMPETENTS

Chapter 24. DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Article 1. Secretary, Powers, Duties

Current through the 2019 Regular and Special Sessions

§ 26-24-1. Department established and renamed

(a) Commencing on August 1, 2015, the Department of Children's Affairs shall be known as the Department of Early Childhood Education. The department is a part of the Executive Department of state government, principally established to enable the Governor to effectively and efficiently coordinate efforts and programs to serve children throughout the state.

(b) All references to the Department of Children's Affairs and to the Commissioner of the Department of Children's Affairs in this code are changed to the Department of Early Childhood Education and the Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood Education, respectively. All other laws, rules, regulations, and legal references of any kind to the Department of Children's Affairs or to the Commissioner of the Department of Children's Affairs shall be changed to the Department of Early Childhood Education or the Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood Education, respectively when this code is next reprinted and in other laws, rules, regulations, and legal references as is appropriate, timely, and economically feasible.

Cite as (Casemaker) Ala. Code § 26-24-1 (1975)

History. Amended by Act 2015-160, §1, eff. 8/1/2015.


§ 26-24-2. Secretary of Early Childhood Education.

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Title 26. INFANTS AND INCOMPETENTS
Chapter 24. DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Article 1. Secretary, Powers, Duties

Current through the 2019 Regular and Special Sessions

§ 26-24-2. Secretary of Early Childhood Education

(a) The department shall be headed by and shall be under the direction, supervision, and control of an officer who shall be known and designated as the Secretary of Early Childhood Education. The secretary shall be responsible to the Governor for the administration of the department.

(b) The secretary shall be appointed by and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.
   (1) To be eligible for appointment to the office of secretary, a person shall provide proof of all of the following qualifications:
      a. A master's degree, or completion of at least 36 hours of post baccalaureate course work, in early childhood education or childhood development.
      b. Extensive experience in educational supervision and management in the areas of early childhood education encompassing birth to eight years of age, inclusive, school readiness, early care education, school improvement, and school administration or education administration.
   (2) In addition to the qualifications for the office of secretary listed in subdivision (1), certification in education administration and supervision is preferred, but not required.

(c) Vacancies in the office of secretary for any reason shall be filled by the Governor.

(d) The salary of the secretary shall be fixed by the Governor at a sum comparable to salaries paid similar officers in state government.

(e) Before entering upon the discharge of duties, the secretary shall take the constitutional oath of office and shall execute to the State of Alabama a bond, to be approved by the Governor, in an amount to be fixed by the Governor, but not less than ten thousand dollars ($10,000), conditioned upon the faithful performance of his or her duties. The premiums on the bond shall be paid out of the State Treasury.

(f) The secretary shall devote full time to the official duties of the office and shall not hold another office under the government of the United States, or any other state, or of this state or of any political subdivision thereof, during his or her incumbency in the office. The secretary shall not hold any position of trust or profit, the conduct of which shall interfere or be inconsistent with his or her duties as secretary pursuant to this article.
§ 26-24-3. Duties of secretary.

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Article 1. Secretary, Powers, Duties

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§ 26-24-3. Duties of secretary

The duties of the secretary shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) Advising the Governor and the Legislature in matters relating to the coordination of services for children under the age of 19.

(2) Serving as a liaison between the Governor and state agencies providing programs or services for children.

(3) Educating and informing legislators and other elected officials about issues affecting children.

(4) Coordinating local effort by creating a network of existing local and community groups and advocates dedicated to children to enable beneficial organizations throughout the state to assist and educate each other.

(5) Actively seeking and applying for federal and private grants to fund children's programs.

(6) Establishing a repository for information on programs other than education programs offered by the Department of Education for K-12 in Alabama, which offer services for, or are for the benefit of, or in any way affect Alabama's children, including, but not limited to, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Mental Health, Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Youth Services, the

Children's Trust Fund, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, and the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.

(7) Preparing and submitting to the Governor and the Legislature annual reports on activities and expenditures of state and local agencies related to children; all state, local, and federal funding available for children's programs other than education programs offered by the Department of Education for K-12; and recommendations of proposed legislation on the most efficient utilization of resources available in order to maximize services provided to children.

(8) Preparing or causing to be prepared, and submitting for approval and adoption by the Children's Policy Council, legislation required to meet the unmet needs of children by further development and improvement of children services.

(9) Review the budget requests for children's services of any state agency that administers children's programs other than education programs offered by the Department of Education for K-12.

(10) Develop a cohesive and comprehensive system of high quality early learning and care.
In the performance of the functions and duties of the office and in the exercise of the powers and authorities, the secretary and all other officers and employees of the department shall be subject to all legal restrictions, limitations, and conditions and penalties, civil and criminal, with respect to the performance of those functions and duties and the exercise of those powers and authorities.
§ 26-24-6. Office space; clerical support, etc.

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Article 1. Secretary, Powers, Duties

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§ 26-24-6. Office space; clerical support, etc

The Governor may provide office space for the use of the department, secretary, and staff of either. The secretary may employ and secure the necessary staff, supplies, and materials to carry out this article, subject to the approval of the Governor, and pursuant to the state Merit System.
§ 26-24-20. Office created.

The Office of School Readiness is created within the Department of Early Childhood Education. The office shall have the duties, responsibilities, functions, powers, and authority set forth in this article and as otherwise provided by law.

Cite as (Casemaker) Ala. Code § 26-24-20 (1975)

History. Amended by Act 2015-160, §1, eff. 8/1/2015.


As used in this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) DIRECTOR. The Director of the Office of School Readiness.
§ 26-24-22. Director.

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Article 2. Office of School Readiness

Current through the 2019 Regular and Special Sessions

§ 26-24-22. Director

(a) The chief administrative and executive officer of the office shall be the director, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood Education. The director shall be responsible for the performance and exercise of the duties, responsibilities, functions, powers, and authority imposed upon the director and the office by law and as directed by the secretary. The director shall be in the unclassified service of the state Merit System and shall receive a salary in an amount to be determined by the secretary. The director shall employ an assistant who shall also serve in the unclassified position of the state Merit System.

(b) The director shall employ all qualified personnel of the office, subject to the state Merit System.
The Office of School Readiness shall do all of the following:

1. Establish criteria and administer such programs and services as may be necessary for the operation and management of a voluntary prekindergarten program.

2. Administer such programs and services as may be necessary for the operation and management of preschool and certain child development programs coordinating with the Department of Education for the inclusion of preschool special education.

3. Ensure that the prekindergarten program provides a developmentally appropriate preschool program emphasizing growth in language and literacy, math concepts, science, arts, physical development, and personal and social competence.

4. Receive and disperse any funds appropriated to the office from the Legislature for the establishment, operation, and administration of the prekindergarten program. The budget of the office shall be part of the Department of Early Childhood Education.

5. Assist local units of administration in this state so as to assure the proliferation of services under this article.

6. Coordinate with the regulatory division for the licensing of child care centers and with the administration of the United States child and adult care food programs at the child care centers participating in the prekindergarten program.

7. Issue annual reports to the Governor, secretary, and Legislature concerning the administration and operation of the prekindergarten program.

8. Provide leadership for enhancement of school readiness in this state by aggressively establishing a unified approach to the state's efforts toward enhancement of school readiness. In support of this effort, the office may develop and implement specific strategies that address the state's school readiness programs.

9. Safeguard the effective use of federal, state, local, and private resources to achieve the
highest possible level of school readiness for the state's children.

(10) Provide technical assistance to local programs.

(11) Assess gaps in services.

(12) By January 2001, adopt a system for measuring school readiness that provides objective data regarding the expectations for school readiness, and establish a method for collecting the data and guidelines for using the data. The measurement, the data collection, and the use of the data must serve the statewide school readiness goals. The criteria for determining which data to collect should be the usefulness of the data to state policymakers and local programs' administrators in administering programs and allocating state funds, and must include the tracking of school readiness system information back to individual school readiness programs to assist in determining program effectiveness.

Cite as (Casemaker) Ala. Code § 26-24-23 (1975)

History. Amended by Act 2015-160, §1, eff. 8/1/2015.

§ 26-24-24. Entities that may participate.

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§ 26-24-24. Entities that may participate

The following entities may voluntarily, but shall not be required to, participate in the programs and services administered by the Office of School Readiness:

(1) Public schools.

(2) Private schools.

(3) Churches.
§ 26-24-25. Collaboration on programs.

As additional funds become available, all programs within each county participating in school readiness shall collaborate on early education and child care programs that are funded with state and/or federal funding including, but not limited to, adult and community education programs, Even-Start literacy programs, prekindergarten early intervention programs, Head Start programs, programs offered by public and private providers of child care, migrant prekindergarten programs, Title 1 programs, subsidized child care programs, and teen parenting programs, together with any additional funds appropriated or obtained for this section. These programs shall be components of the integrated school readiness program.

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§ 26-24-26. Effect on employees

This article shall not result in the net loss of employees and no affected employee shall be required to relocate or be forced to transfer.

Cite as (Casemaker) Ala. Code § 26-24-26 (1975)

The Alabama Children's Policy Council is hereby created and shall consist of the following members: Three appointees from business and industry made by the Governor; the Lieutenant Governor; the Speaker of the House of Representatives; two members of the Alabama Senate, one appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama; the legal advisor to the Governor; the Attorney General; the President of the Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Association; the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections; the President of the District Attorneys' Association; the President of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officers' Association; the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources; the Administrative Director of Courts; the Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood Education; the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health; the Executive Director of the Department of Youth Services; the State Superintendent of Education; the State Health Officer; the Executive Director of the Alabama Children's Trust Fund; the President of the Alabama Parent-Teachers Association; the Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs; the Commissioner of the Department of Rehabilitation Services; the Commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency; the Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency; the Administrator of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; the Director of the Office of School Readiness; the Director of Voices for Alabama's Children; the Director of A Journey to Manhood; the President of A Coalition of 100 Black Women; the President of 21st Century Youth Leadership Program; the Director of the Children First Foundation; the Director of the Multiple Needs Child Office; and five persons to be appointed by the Alabama Children's Policy Council. The appointed members of the Alabama Children's Policy Council shall reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state. All appointments are subject to Senate confirmation and shall be effective until acted upon by the Senate.

The Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood Education shall serve as chair and
the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama as vice chair. The five Alabama Children's Policy Council appointees and the three appointees of the Governor shall serve on the Alabama Children's Policy Council for two years from October 1 following their appointment and until their successors are selected, and may be reappointed for additional terms. Any vacancies in the appointed positions shall be filled in like manner as their predecessor and shall serve for a full term and until their successors are selected. If the Alabama Children's Policy Council deems it necessary or advisable, it may elect other officers and adopt bylaws. The vice chair and any other officers of the Alabama Children's Policy Council, other than the chair, shall hold these offices for a period as designated by the Alabama Children's Policy Council, or for so long as they remain members of the Alabama Children's Policy Council. The Alabama Children's Policy Council shall meet at the call of the chair at least once annually prior to September 1 of each fiscal year, and at other times as, in the opinion of the chair, additional meetings are needed.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Alabama Children's Policy Council and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama to review the report prepared by the Department of Early Childhood Education pursuant to Section 26-24-34 and to make recommendations as it deems necessary and appropriate to the Governor and Legislature by October 1 of each fiscal year. It shall also be the duty of the Alabama Children's Policy Council to develop a state resource guide, which may be automated, including procedural information concerning how to access these services. This guide shall be distributed to departments, agencies, and organizations serving children, as well as the county children's policy councils in each county of the state and the general public.

Cite as (Casemaker) Ala. Code § 26-24-30 (1975)

History. Amended by Act 2015-160, §1, eff. 8/1/2015.


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Title 26. INFANTS AND INCOMPETENTS

Chapter 24. DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Article 3. Alabama Children's Policy Council
§ 26-24-31. Alabama Children's Policy Council Fund

(a) There is hereby established the Alabama Children's Policy Council Fund into which there is automatically appropriated twenty thousand dollars ($20,000) annually at the beginning of each fiscal year. Any funds remaining in the Alabama Children's Policy Council Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the State General Fund. The Comptroller shall transfer the moneys from the State General Fund to the Alabama Children's Policy Council Fund annually at the beginning of each fiscal year and the moneys in the fund shall be expended for the travel expenses of members of the Alabama Children's Policy Council who are not otherwise reimbursed by the state and such other necessary operating costs and expenses as approved by the Chair of the Alabama Children's Policy Council. Travel and per diem for all members of the Alabama Children's Policy Council shall be calculated and paid at the same rate applicable to state employees. Any expenses of the Alabama Children's Policy Council, including printing, postage, and mailing costs, which cannot be paid because of insufficient funds, shall be charged to the departments and agencies represented by membership on the Alabama Children's Policy Council on a pro rata basis, as calculated by the chair.

(b) The Alabama Children's Policy Council may accept and use funds available to it from all sources, including, but not limited to, grants, appropriations, gifts, and donations for the purpose of implementing this chapter. All funds shall be deposited into the Alabama Children's Policy Council Fund, which shall be under the management of the Alabama Children's Policy Council. Moneys of the fund may be withdrawn by vouchers or checks signed by the chair of the Alabama Children's Policy Council.

Cite as (Casemaker) Ala. Code § 26-24-31 (1975)

Article 3. Alabama Children's Policy Council

Current through the 2019 Regular and Special Sessions

§ 26-24-32. Expenses of Alabama Children's Policy Council members who are state officers or employees

The members of the Alabama Children's Policy Council who are officers or employees of the State of Alabama shall be entitled to be reimbursed for their expenses, including travel, lodging, food, and other expenses at the same rate as other state employees. These expenses shall be paid by the Comptroller from funds appropriated from the State Treasury to the department or agency which the member represents.

Cite as (Casemaker) Ala. Code § 26-24-32 (1975)


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Chapter 24. DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Article 3. Alabama Children's Policy Council

Current through the 2019 Regular and Special Sessions

§ 26-24-33. County children's policy councils - Generally

(a) A county children's policy council is hereby created in each county of the state. The county children's policy council shall consist of the following members: A juvenile court judge in each county; the county director of the Department of Human Resources; a county representative of the Department of Mental Health; a county representative of the Department of Youth Services; a county representative of the Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Medicaid Agency, the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, provided they have a physical presence in the county; the county superintendent of education and any city superintendent of education in the
county; the county chief juvenile probation officer; a representative of the county health department; the district attorney; local legislators; the chair of the county commission; the sheriff, and at least seven persons to be appointed by the county children's policy council from the community including, but not limited to, state and local government officials, practicing attorneys, community organizations, business and industry, and representatives of any other agencies or organizations providing services to families and children in the county.

(b) All members of the county children's policy council shall serve on the county children's policy council for two years and until their successors are appointed, except those who serve by virtue of holding a designated office. The county children's policy council shall be convened at least once each quarter at the call of the chair. The juvenile court judge presiding over the county children's policy council may nominate a member to serve as chair. At the first meeting of the county children's policy council, the county children's policy council shall select its additional council members. If the county children's policy council deems it necessary or advisable, it may elect other officers and adopt bylaws. The additional officers shall hold office for the period as designated by the county children's policy council.
Reviewing the needs of children in the county and the responsibilities assigned each department or agency by law; determining areas of responsibility and identifying areas of duplication or conflict between departments and agencies in the county; identifying local resources and developing, in conjunction with the Department of Early Childhood Education, and up-dating annually, a local resource guide to services available to children which shall include procedural information concerning how to access those local services; articulating and communicating to the local community the needs of children; and submitting an annual report to the Department of Early Childhood Education by July 1 of each year on the local services provided to children, local needs of children, and recommendations of the county children's policy council based on data from the previous fiscal year ending September 30. The Department of Early Childhood Education shall then, by September 1 of each year, submit its summary recommendations based on the reports, along with a copy of each local report to the Alabama Children's Policy Council. The local resource guides shall be used by the Alabama Children's Policy Council in compiling a state resource guide, which may be automated and shall be distributed to the general public and to agencies and organizations serving children.

Cite as (Casemaker) Ala. Code § 26-24-34 (1975)

History. Amended by Act 2015-160, §1, eff. 8/1/2015.


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Article 3. Alabama Children's Policy Council

Current through the 2019 Regular and Special Sessions

§ 26-24-35. Juvenile justice coordinating councils renamed

All references to the "Alabama Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council" and to "county juvenile justice coordinating councils" in this code, are changed to the "Alabama Children's Policy Council" and "county children's policy councils" respectively. All other laws, rules, regulations, and legal references of any kind to the "Alabama Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council" or to "county
juvenile justice coordinating councils" shall be changed to the "Alabama Children's Policy Council"
or to "county children's policy councils" respectively when this code is next reprinted and in otherlaws, rules, regulations, and legal references as is appropriate, timely, and economically feasible.

Cite as (Casemaker) Ala. Code § 26-24-35 (1975)