

1 HB476  
2 184739-1  
3 By Representative Collins  
4 RFD: State Government  
5 First Read: 06-APR-17

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Secretary of Early  
9 Childhood Education, who is appointed by the  
10 Governor, is responsible for the administration of  
11 the Department of Early Childhood Education.

12 This bill would provide qualifications for  
13 the appointee to the office of Secretary of Early  
14 Childhood Education.

15  
16 A BILL  
17 TO BE ENTITLED  
18 AN ACT  
19

20 To amend Section 26-24-2, Code of Alabama 1975,  
21 relating to the Secretary of Early Childhood Education; to  
22 provide for the qualifications of the secretary.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. Section 26-24-2 of the Code of Alabama  
25 1975, is amended to read as follows:

26 "§26-24-2.

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

6           "(b) The secretary shall be appointed by and shall  
7 hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.

8           "(1) To be eligible for appointment to the office of  
9 secretary, a person shall provide proof of all of the  
10 following qualifications:

11           "a. A master's degree, or completion of at least 36  
12 hours of post baccalaureate course work, in early childhood  
13 education or childhood development.

14           "b. Extensive experience in educational supervision  
15 and management in the areas of early childhood education  
16 encompassing birth to eight years of age, inclusive, school  
17 readiness, early care education, school improvement, and  
18 school administration or education administration.

19           "(2) In addition to the qualifications for the  
20 office of secretary listed in subdivision (1), certification  
21 in education administration and supervision is preferred, but  
22 not required.

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

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

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

8           "(f) The secretary shall devote full time to the  
9     official duties of the office and shall not hold another  
10    office under the government of the United States, or any other  
11    state, or of this state or of any political subdivision  
12    thereof, during his or her incumbency in the office. The  
13    secretary shall not hold any position of trust or profit, the  
14    conduct of which shall interfere or be inconsistent with his  
15    or her duties as secretary pursuant to this article."

16           Section 2. This act shall become effective  
17    immediately following its passage and approval by the  
18    Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.