

HB 2264 -- EARLY CHILDHOOD CABINET

SPONSOR: Swan

This bill renames the "Coordinating Board for Early Childhood" to the "Missouri Early Childhood Cabinet" and designates the cabinet as the state advisory council on early childhood education and care for children from birth to school entry. The bill moves the cabinet to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for administrative purposes, but not under authority of the State Board of Education (SBE). This cabinet shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the Governor, two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, and two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem as outlined in the bill. Additionally ex officio members as specified in the bill will serve without appointment.

The bill provides that the cabinet will hire an executive director to be responsible for administrative operations of the cabinet. The cabinet will submit a written report prior to December 31st annually to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Joint Committee on Education, and electronically post the report on DESE's website. The report must include recommendations the cabinet might have for legislative actions, or department services. The report will include an analysis and statement on the current manner in which early childhood care and education programs are executed and the cabinet's actions.

The bill outlines the cabinet's power and includes coordination with public and private entities and the alignment of services and early childhood care and education programs. The cabinet will also serve as the lead administrative agency for early childhood care and education programs, consult with the Missouri workforce development board, as well as assist in obtaining funding for programs and services.

The cabinet is required to formulate a cross-departmental consolidated program budget summary for all state-level early childhood cases and provide the summary to the budget director by October 1st preceding the annual session of the General Assembly.

The bill also renames the "Coordinating Board for the Early Childhood Fund" to the "Early Childhood Cabinet Fund".