

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of certain children who are or were in foster care for free prekindergarten programs in public schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Jace's Law.

SECTION 2. Section 29.153(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class under this section if the child is at least three years of age and:

(1) is unable to speak and comprehend the English language;

(2) is educationally disadvantaged;

(3) is homeless, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child;

(4) is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority;

(5) is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty;

1 (6) is or ever has been in:

2 (A) the conservatorship of the Department of
3 Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing held
4 as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code; or

5 (B) foster care in another state or territory, if
6 the child resides in this state; or

7 (7) is the child of a person eligible for the Star of
8 Texas Award as:

9 (A) a peace officer under Section 3106.002,
10 Government Code;

11 (B) a firefighter under Section 3106.003,
12 Government Code; or

13 (C) an emergency medical first responder under
14 Section 3106.004, Government Code.

15 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
16 school year.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 725 was passed by the House on April 1, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 725 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor