

1-1 By: Patterson, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 725
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 6, 2021;
1-3 April 8, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Education; May 10, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 10, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the eligibility of certain children who are or were in
1-22 foster care for free prekindergarten programs in public schools.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Jace's Law.

1-25 SECTION 2. Section 29.153(b), Education Code, is amended to
1-26 read as follows:

1-27 (b) A child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten
1-28 class under this section if the child is at least three years of age
1-29 and:

1-30 (1) is unable to speak and comprehend the English
1-31 language;

1-32 (2) is educationally disadvantaged;

1-33 (3) is homeless, regardless of the residence of the
1-34 child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or
1-35 other person having lawful control of the child;

1-36 (4) is the child of an active duty member of the armed
1-37 forces of the United States, including the state military forces or
1-38 a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active
1-39 duty by proper authority;

1-40 (5) is the child of a member of the armed forces of the
1-41 United States, including the state military forces or a reserve
1-42 component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while
1-43 serving on active duty;

1-44 (6) is or ever has been in:

1-45 (A) the conservatorship of the Department of
1-46 Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing held
1-47 as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code; or

1-48 (B) foster care in another state or territory, if
1-49 the child resides in this state; or

1-50 (7) is the child of a person eligible for the Star of
1-51 Texas Award as:

1-52 (A) a peace officer under Section 3106.002,
1-53 Government Code;

1-54 (B) a firefighter under Section 3106.003,
1-55 Government Code; or

1-56 (C) an emergency medical first responder under
1-57 Section 3106.004, Government Code.

1-58 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
1-59 school year.

1-60 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-61 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

2-1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-3 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

2-4

* * * * *