

1-1 By: Button, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Birdwell) H.B. No. 1615  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 13, 2023;  
 1-3 April 18, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Natural Resources & Economic Development; May 12, 2023, reported  
 1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 12, 2023, sent  
 1-6 to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
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 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to strategies to increase the availability of child-care  
 1-21 and prekindergarten programs.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is  
 1-24 amended by adding Sections 302.0051 and 302.0063 to read as  
 1-25 follows:

1-26 Sec. 302.0051. PREKINDERGARTEN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM. (a)  
 1-27 The commission shall establish and administer a prekindergarten  
 1-28 partnership program to assist child-care providers who meet the  
 1-29 definition of an eligible private provider under Section 29.171,  
 1-30 Education Code, in partnering with local school districts and  
 1-31 open-enrollment charter schools to provide the prekindergarten  
 1-32 classes required under Section 29.153, Education Code.

1-33 (b) Using existing funds, the commission shall coordinate  
 1-34 with the Texas Education Agency to develop joint strategies to  
 1-35 expand the availability of prekindergarten partnership programs.

1-36 Sec. 302.0063. CHILD-CARE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
 1-37 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "program" means the  
 1-38 professional development scholarship program established under  
 1-39 this section.

1-40 (b) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the commission  
 1-41 shall establish and administer a professional development  
 1-42 scholarship program for current and prospective child-care  
 1-43 workers.

1-44 (c) A scholarship under the program may be used to pay an  
 1-45 individual's costs related to:

1-46 (1) earning:

1-47 (A) a Child Development Associate (CDA)  
 1-48 credential; or

1-49 (B) an associate's degree or bachelor's degree in  
 1-50 early childhood education or another related field from a public or  
 1-51 private institution of higher education; and

1-52 (2) participation in a registered child-care  
 1-53 apprenticeship program.

1-54 (d) The program may be used to pay for other ancillary costs  
 1-55 for child-care workers who are enrolled in an educational program  
 1-56 or apprenticeship program described by Subsection (c), including:

1-57 (1) books and supplies;

1-58 (2) release time or stipends to attend classes;

1-59 (3) costs related to the examination for the Child  
 1-60 Development Associate (CDA) credential;

1-61 (4) travel to attend classes or attend a hands-on

2-1 practicum training; and  
2-2 (5) stipends for mentors or master teachers who  
2-3 provide hands-on training at a child-care program.

2-4 SECTION 2. Section 2308.256(a), Government Code, is amended  
2-5 to read as follows:

2-6 (a) A board is composed as follows:

2-7 (1) representatives of the private sector, who:

2-8 (A) constitute a majority of the membership of  
2-9 the board; and

2-10 (B) are owners of business concerns, chief  
2-11 executives or chief operating officers of nongovernmental  
2-12 employers, or other private sector executives who have substantial  
2-13 management or policy responsibilities;

2-14 (2) representatives of organized labor and  
2-15 community-based organizations, who constitute not less than 15  
2-16 percent of the membership of the board; and

2-17 (3) representatives of each of the following:

2-18 (A) educational agencies, including community  
2-19 colleges and secondary and postsecondary practitioners  
2-20 representing vocational education, that are representative of all  
2-21 educational agencies in the service delivery area;

2-22 (B) vocational rehabilitation agencies;

2-23 (C) public assistance agencies;

2-24 (D) economic development agencies;

2-25 (E) the public employment service;

2-26 (F) local literacy councils; ~~and~~

2-27 (G) adult basic and continuing education  
2-28 organizations; and

2-29 (H) the child-care workforce.

2-30 SECTION 3. Section 2308.256(g), Government Code, is  
2-31 repealed.

2-32 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

2-33 \* \* \* \* \*