

By: Bernal

H.B. No. 4744

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to establishing a program to allow certain child-care
3 providers to provide free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch
4 meals.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 302.00437 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 302.00437. EARLY CHILDHOOD BREAKFAST AND LUNCH GRANT
9 PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Child-care provider" means a day-care center or a
11 group day-care home licensed under Chapter 42, Human Resources
12 Code, or a family home registered under Chapter 42, Human Resources
13 Code.

14 (2) "Eligible child" means a child who:

15 (A) is eligible for services from a federal Head
16 Start or Early Head Start program;

17 (B) receives subsidized child-care services; or

18 (C) except for the child's age, meets a
19 requirement of Section 29.153(b), Education Code.

20 (3) "Eligible meal" means a breakfast or lunch that
21 meets the nutritional requirements for:

22 (A) the national school breakfast program as
23 provided by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. Section
24 1773); or

1 (B) the national school lunch program of free or
2 reduced-price lunches under 7 C.F.R. Section 210.10 or a successor
3 regulation.

4 (4) "Program" means the early childhood breakfast and
5 lunch grant program established under this section.

6 (b) The commission shall establish the early childhood
7 breakfast and lunch grant program to award grants to child-care
8 providers to provide eligible meals to eligible children for free
9 or at a reduced cost.

10 (c) A child-care provider may elect to participate in the
11 program. A child-care provider participating in the program shall
12 offer eligible meals without charge or at a reduced cost to each
13 eligible enrolled child.

14 (d) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the commission
15 shall provide grants to reimburse child-care providers that
16 participate in the program for costs related to providing meals
17 under Subsection (c) in an amount established by the commission
18 that ensures each participating child-care provider is able to
19 receive a grant.

20 (e) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
21 section, including rules regarding the eligibility criteria for
22 receiving a grant and the process for awarding a grant under this
23 section.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.