

By: Capriglione

H.B. No. 3963

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an early childhood integrated data system.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 3, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Chapter 74 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 74. EARLY CHILDHOOD INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEM

Sec. 74.0001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Cooperating entity" means the:

(A) Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston;

(B) Department of Family and Protective Services;

(C) Health and Human Services Commission;

(D) Texas Education Agency;

(E) Texas Workforce Commission; and

(F) Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office.

(2) "Early childhood interagency workgroup" means the workgroup that promotes collaboration across state agencies serving families with young children and that consists of representatives from the following state agencies:

(A) Department of Family and Protective Services;

(B) Department of State Health Services;

(C) Health and Human Services Commission;

1 (D) Texas Education Agency; and

2 (E) Texas Workforce Commission.

3 (3) "Lead agency" means the state agency designated
4 under Section 74.0003.

5 (4) "System" means the early childhood integrated data
6 system established under this subchapter.

7 Sec. 74.0002. INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
8 INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEM. (a) Subject to Section 74.0004(1), the
9 early childhood interagency workgroup shall develop the early
10 childhood integrated data system for the purpose of facilitating
11 and strengthening the sharing of data from early childhood programs
12 across state agencies to:

13 (1) better inform policy related to those programs at
14 the state level; and

15 (2) guide improvements to those programs that support
16 this state's early childhood goals and priorities and provide
17 better outcomes for children and families in this state.

18 (b) The system must be developed in a manner that:

19 (1) allows for the integration of existing state and
20 federal data systems that are accessible to the cooperating
21 agencies and that contain data derived from early childhood
22 services and programs that serve families with children from birth
23 through eight years of age, including data related to outcomes
24 under those services and programs;

25 (2) allows for the identification of and reporting on:

26 (A) specific outcome measures using aggregated
27 data that does not contain any identifying information, to the

extent state or federal law, as applicable, expressly authorizes that use of the information;

(B) gaps in services and underserved populations;

(C) opportunities to align services and programs; and

(D) coordination needs across services and programs; and

(3) complies with state and federal laws relating to privacy, cybersecurity, and data collection, including rules establishing procedures to ensure that there is no unauthorized duplication or removal of confidential information.

(c) Data other than that described by Subsection (b)(1) may not be collected for purposes of the system.

Sec. 74.0003. DESIGNATION OF LEAD AGENCY. During the initial development of the system under Section 74.0002, the early childhood interagency workgroup shall designate from among the state entities listed in Sections 74.0001(1)(A) through (E) one entity to act as the lead agency for the system.

Sec. 74.0004. LEAD AGENCY DUTIES. The lead agency shall:

(1) complete the development of the system initially developed under Section 74.0002 in a manner consistent with the requirements of that section;

(2) implement and maintain the system with assistance from the early childhood interagency workgroup;

(3) provide staff to operate the system; and

(4) using system data, conduct data matching using a

1 protocol approved by the cooperating entities.

2 Sec. 74.0005. COOPERATING ENTITIES. (a) The lead agency
3 and each cooperating entity shall enter into a memorandum of
4 understanding regarding the sharing of data for purposes of the
5 system. The memorandum of understanding must specify the data to be
6 shared consistent with Sections 74.0002(b)(1) and (c) and the
7 frequency and manner of that data sharing.

8 (b) Each cooperating entity shall participate in the system
9 and share data for purposes of the system as required by the
10 memorandum of understanding.

11 Sec. 74.0006. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) Not later than
12 January 1 of each year, the early childhood interagency workgroup
13 shall submit to the legislature a report on the workgroup's, lead
14 agency's, and cooperating entities' progress in developing,
15 establishing, and operating the system.

16 (b) The initial report required by Subsection (a) must
17 include:

18 (1) the state entity the early childhood interagency
19 workgroup designated to act as the lead agency;

20 (2) an interagency data governance plan that includes:

21 (A) objectives relevant to the system and a
22 framework for achieving those objectives;

23 (B) the roles and responsibilities of all state
24 entities involved in establishing and maintaining the system; and

25 (C) documentation of relevant state and federal
26 privacy, cybersecurity, and data collection laws, including rules;

27 (3) a standardized process for updating the memorandum

of understanding into which the cooperating entities entered under Section 74.0005;

(4) a design plan that focuses on:

(A) data security, storage, retention, management, processing, transportation, and analytics and other products; and

(B) roles and responsibilities of relevant state entity personnel regarding data integration; and

(5) information on the status of:

(A) hiring project management full-time equivalents;

(B) grant funding applied for and grant funding secured; and

(C) the development of an Internet website that includes a preliminary, publicly available consumer data dashboard.

(c) Each report required by Subsection (a) following the initial report must include:

(1) updates to the information required by Subsections (a)(2) through (5);

(2) an overview on business use cases the system can support; and

(3) information on the development of analytic tools based on the business use cases described by Subdivision (2).

Sec. 74.0007. FUNDING. (a) The early childhood interagency workgroup, the cooperating entities, and the lead agency may use any available state or federal money to develop the

1 system.

2 (b) The lead agency shall actively pursue grants or other
3 money available from the federal government to operate the system.

4 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2026, the early
5 childhood interagency workgroup shall:

6 (1) designate the lead agency for the early childhood
7 integrated data system as required by Section 74.0003, Human
8 Resources Code, as added by this Act; and

9 (2) submit to the legislature the initial report
10 required by Section 74.0006, Human Resources Code, as added by this
11 Act.

12 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
13 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
14 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
15 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
16 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
17 waiver or authorization is granted.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.