

Amend CSSB 280 in ARTICLE 4 of the bill by inserting the following new SECTION, appropriately numbered, and renumbering remaining SECTIONS in the ARTICLE accordingly:

SECTION 4._____. STUDY AND REPORT ON CHILD-CARE INITIATIVES.

(a) The Texas Workforce Commission shall study and produce a comprehensive report on state and local initiatives and collaborative initiatives targeted at enhancing the quality of child care, including initiatives funded from public or private sources.

(b) The Texas Workforce Commission shall work in conjunction with the Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services in studying the initiatives and producing the report.

(c) The Texas Workforce Commission shall coordinate the efforts under this section with the activities of the Office of Early Childhood Coordination, particularly as those efforts relate to the development of the statewide strategic plan required under Section 531.284, Government Code.

(d) The report must:

(1) include a description of each initiative's activity, including:

(A) factors relevant to the initiative's success;
and

(B) the amount and sources of the initiative's funding;

(2) describe programmatic best practices as models for replication statewide; and

(3) establish statewide benchmarks for quality child care.

(e) The Texas Workforce Commission shall submit the report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the presiding officers of appropriate legislative committees not later than September 1, 2004.

(f) This section expires September 1, 2005.