

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 74  
By: Zaffirini  
Human Services  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The state receives nearly \$400 million a year from the federal government to provide child-care subsidies for low-income parents to help them obtain employment. Four percent of these funds must be spent on quality, but it is difficult to determine whether these funds are being used effectively.

Furthermore, most communities raise local contributions to fund quality initiatives. Because of the scarcity of quality funds, it is imperative that local communities share information on how to stretch limited dollars to increase the quality of care for children in child care.

SB 74 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to produce a comprehensive report on all quality child care services in the State of Texas.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly delegate any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

SB 74 requires the Health and Human Services Commission, in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood Coordination, to thoroughly research and investigate all quality child care programs in Texas. The results of the report will be shared with local workforce development boards to create and run more fiscally beneficial programs.

It is necessary for this commission to create a protocol for measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of child care programs. The Interim Report by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services recommended that the 78th Legislature direct the Commission to develop a protocol to evaluate the success of the child care. The committee felt that the effort should be coordinated with the work of the Office of Early Childhood Coordination and the development of the statewide strategic plan for services to children.

The report must:

- include a description of each initiative's activity, including factors relevant to the Success of Quality Care Program and the fiscal efficiency of the program;
- promote the creation of similar programs statewide; and
- establish statewide benchmarks for quality child care.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

The Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

