

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 454

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an evaluation of the system of child care subsidy programs under the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 302.0063 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.0063. STUDY AND REPORT ON CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS. (a) The commission shall measure and evaluate the effectiveness of the child care subsidy programs in this state that are funded partly or wholly by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (42 U.S.C. Section 9858 et seq.), as amended, or a successor federal program.

(b) The commission shall develop a protocol for measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of child care subsidy programs. The protocol must provide for measuring and evaluating that effectiveness based on participant and program outcomes, including the program's ability to:

(1) evaluate improvements in parent income earning;

(2) improve the training of child care professionals;

and

(3) facilitate collaboration with Head Start, the Texas Education Agency, the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, and the Health and Human Services Commission.

(c) The protocol may also include other appropriate

1 criteria determined by the commission.

2 (d) In preparing the protocol and collecting the data, the
3 commission may use resources and information available from other
4 organizations and agencies, including the child care resource and
5 referral network, the Health and Human Services Commission, the
6 Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, the Texas
7 Education Agency, and Head Start.

8 (e) Every two years, the commission shall prepare a report
9 based on the results of the preceding two years' study that
10 summarizes the findings and makes recommendations to improve the
11 ability of the child care subsidy programs to meet the
12 effectiveness measures. Each report must include comparisons to
13 any previous study results.

14 (f) The commission shall submit the report to the governor,
15 the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
16 representatives, and appropriate legislative committees during the
17 first week of December before each regular session of the
18 legislature.

19 (g) This section expires September 1, 2009.

20 SECTION 2. If the Child Care and Development Block Grant (42
21 U.S.C. Section 9858 et seq.), as amended, expires at the end of
22 fiscal year 2002 and a successor federal program does not continue
23 to fund child care programs in this state, this Act has no effect.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.