

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 1019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a system for providing a single point of access to government-funded child care and education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2308.319 to read as follows:

Sec. 2308.319. SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS TO CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES. (a) In this section, "child care and education services" means:

(1) subsidized child care and education services administered by the commission and boards and funded wholly or partly by federal child care development funds;

(2) child care and education services provided by a Head Start or Early Head Start program provider;

(3) child care and education services provided by a school district through a prekindergarten or after-school program;
and

(4) any other government-funded child care and education services, other than education and services provided by a school district as part of the general program of public and secondary education, designed to educate or provide care for children under the age of 12 in middle or low-income families.

(b) Each board shall establish a system under which a person may apply for all child care and education services available in the

1 person's community through a single point of access. To the extent
2 practical, each board shall develop and implement the system using:

3 (1) any previously existing administrative structure
4 for delivering board services; and

5 (2) the best practices of appropriate existing models
6 of consolidated social services delivery systems.

7 (c) The system required by this section must permit a person
8 to submit an application for child care and education services:

9 (1) in person at one of multiple locations, if
10 appropriate considering the size of the person's community; or

11 (2) through the mail or the Internet.

12 (d) Each entity providing child care and education services
13 in a community served by a board, including the Texas Education
14 Agency, school districts, Head Start and Early Head Start program
15 providers, municipalities, counties, and other political
16 subdivisions of this state, shall:

17 (1) cooperate with the board in establishing the
18 system required by this section and comply with procedures
19 established by the board; and

20 (2) restructure enrollment procedures for child care
21 and education services provided by the entity as necessary to
22 permit effective operation of the system required by this section.

23 (e) The commission, each board, and each other entity
24 providing child care and education services subject to this section
25 may enter into memorandums of understanding as necessary to provide
26 for the effective administration of the system required by this
27 section.

1 (f) Any requirement imposed under this section on a Head
2 Start or Early Head Start program provider must be imposed in a
3 manner consistent with federal law and regulations relating to the
4 Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

5 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
6 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
7 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
8 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
9 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
10 waiver or authorization is granted.

11 SECTION 3. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

12 (b) Each local workforce development board shall implement
13 the system required by Section 2308.319, Government Code, as added
14 by this Act, not later than January 1, 2004.