

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 76

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of subsidized child-care services.

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

SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 72, Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 72. HEAD START, PREKINDERGARTEN, AND OTHER SIMILAR
PROGRAMS

SECTION 2. Section 72.003, Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 72.003. COORDINATION OF SERVICES. (a) In a manner consistent with federal law and regulations, each Head Start and Early Head Start program provider, prekindergarten program provider, and provider of an after-school child-care program provided at a school shall coordinate with the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, and local workforce development boards regarding subsidized child-care services.

(b) The coordination required by this section must include:

(1) streamlining the eligibility determination or registration processes for subsidized child-care services and a Head Start or Early Head Start, prekindergarten, or after-school child-care program; and

(2) coordinating to ensure, to the extent practicable, that full-day, full-year child-care services are available to meet the needs of low-income parents who are working or participating in

workforce training or workforce education.

(c) The coordination required by this section may also include:

(1) cooperating with the Texas Workforce Commission regarding studies conducted by the commission;

(2) collecting data necessary to determine a child's eligibility for subsidized child-care services or a Head Start or Early Head Start, prekindergarten, or after-school child-care program, when permissible;

(3) cooperating to provide for staff training and professional development activities;

(4) identifying and developing methods for the collaborative provision of subsidized child-care services and Head Start or Early Head Start, prekindergarten, or after-school child-care program services, including:

(A) sharing facilities or staff; and

(B) increasing the enrollment capacity of those programs;

(5) identifying child-care facilities located in close proximity to Head Start or Early Head Start, prekindergarten, or after-school child-care programs; and

(6) coordinating transportation between child-care facilities identified under Subdivision (5) and a Head Start or Early Head Start, prekindergarten, or after-school child-care program.

SECTION 3. (a) Not later than January 1, 2004, the Texas Education Agency shall develop a plan to establish prekindergarten

1 programs within the subsidized child-care service industry. In
2 developing the plan, the agency shall seek input from:

3 (1) parents eligible to receive subsidized child-care
4 services;

5 (2) parents of children eligible for enrollment in a
6 prekindergarten program;

7 (3) school districts;

8 (4) the Texas Workforce Commission;

9 (5) local workforce development boards;

10 (6) the child-care resource and referral network; and

11 (7) the Texas Head Start Collaboration Project.

12 (b) The plan must provide that programs to be established
13 under the plan be funded using money used for prekindergarten
14 programs under Subchapter E, Chapter 29, Education Code, and
15 federal child-care development funds to the extent permitted by
16 federal law.

17 (c) Not later than January 1, 2005, the Texas Education
18 Agency shall prepare and deliver the plan to the governor,
19 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and
20 clerks of the standing committees of the senate and house of
21 representatives with primary jurisdiction over prekindergarten
22 programs and state-subsidized child-care services for low-income
23 families.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.