

Amend **HB 2808** by adding the following appropriately numbered section to the bill and renumbering the remaining sections appropriately:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code is amended by adding Section 61.0761 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0761. P-16 COUNCIL EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE. (a)  
The P-16 Council shall create a blue ribbon task force on early childhood education to assist the council with the coordination of the public education system as provided by Section 61.076. The task force shall:

(1) study the resource needs of high-quality early childhood care and education programs including Head Start, Early Head Start, prekindergarten, after-school programs, and programs funded with federal child-care development funds;

(2) recommend options to secure additional funding for the programs;

(3) build on the work of the demonstration projects established in accordance with Section 29.160, Education Code, and analyze the barriers to and recommend combined criteria for the integration of early childhood care and education programs and Head Start programs, including differences in standards required for teaching staff, child-to-staff ratios, and the quality of instruction;

(4) establish a plan to implement, in phases, full-day prekindergarten programs for at-risk children and expand the eligibility criteria for those programs;

(5) develop a common set of high standards and eligibility criteria for community partnerships between school districts, early childhood care and education programs, and Head Start programs; and

(6) recommend methods to strengthen school readiness standards for early childhood education programs.

(b) The task force shall consist of nine members appointed by the P-16 Council as follows:

(1) three members of the public recommended by the governor;

(2) three members of the senate recommended by the

lieutenant governor; and

(3) three members of the house of representatives recommended by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(c) The council shall appoint one of the public members recommended by the governor under Subsection (b) (1) as the public chair. The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of representatives shall recommend to the council that one of the members recommended by each presiding officer under Subsection (b) be appointed as co-presiding officers with the public chair.

(d) The task force shall convene at the call of the presiding officers.

(e) The task force may form working groups consisting of members of the task force, members of the public involved in early childhood care, and other members of the legislature.

(f) Not later than September 1, 2006, the task force shall report the task force's findings and recommendations to the P-16 Council, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the members of the 79th Legislature.