

Amend HB 2959 as follows:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 42, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Sections 42.061 and 42.062 to read as follows:

Sec. 42.061. USE OF CERTAIN DEDICATED CHILD-CARE FUNDS. (a) If the state is required to dedicate more than four percent of the amount of federal child-care development funds for the purposes provided by 42 U.S.C. Section 9858e, the Texas Workforce Commission, unless otherwise required by federal law and notwithstanding any other state law, shall ensure that any amount of the dedicated funds in excess of four percent is used to establish and implement the grant program for quality improvement activities under Section 42.062.

(b) The Texas Workforce Commission shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the department under which:

(1) the commission transfers the dedicated funds in excess of four percent as described by Subsection (a) to the department; and

(2) the department uses the transferred funds to implement the grant program for quality improvement activities under Section 42.062.

Sec. 42.062. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILD-CARE SERVICES. (a) Subject to the availability of funds under Section 42.061 or from another source, the executive commissioner by rule shall establish a program under which the department awards grants to child-care providers and community-based organizations for use in providing quality improvement activities to improve the quality and availability of child-care services.

(b) The executive commissioner by rule shall prescribe eligibility criteria for receipt of a grant under the program.

(c) In developing the program under this section, the executive commissioner shall adopt a list of quality improvement activities for which a provider or organization is eligible to receive funding through the program. The list of activities must include:

(1) comprehensive consumer education encompassing:

(A) parent education programs;

(B) publication of quality indicators to evaluate

child-care services;

(C) data collection regarding child-care and early childhood education programs; and

(D) parent referral services;

(2) professional development activities for providers, including:

(A) training, educational materials, or technical assistance;

(B) scholarship information and assistance; and

(C) strategies to increase salaries or other forms of compensation;

(3) teacher training programs, mentoring programs, or other programs or activities that promote early development of language, literacy, and mathematical skills in young children;

(4) programs or activities that promote inclusive child care;

(5) activities promoted by the Healthy Child Care America program and other activities designed to promote the social and emotional development of young children;

(6) use of infant and toddler specialists to educate parents and provide training and technical assistance to child-care providers; and

(7) other activities the department determines will increase parental choice and improve the quality and availability of child-care services.

(d) To the extent allowed by federal law, the department shall use federal child-care development funds transferred under Section 42.061 for the purposes of the program. The department may use other available funds for the purposes of the program.

(e) In developing the program, the executive commissioner shall ensure that the department administers the program in a manner that allows local providers and organizations to choose which of the quality improvement activities described by Subsection (c) the provider or organization wants to provide under the program.

(f) In awarding grants under the program, the department shall give priority to quality improvement activities for programs

that serve infants and toddlers younger than three years of age.

(g) The department shall submit to the legislature an annual report regarding the operation of the program during the preceding year. At a minimum, the report must include the number and total amount of grants awarded by the department during the period covered by the report.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation of Section 42.062, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act.