By: Villarreal

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a software system for providing a single point of access

3 to government-funded child-care and education programs.

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

5   SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 301, Labor Code, is

6 amended by adding Section 301.070 to read as follows:

7   Sec. 301.070. SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS TO CHILD-CARE AND

8 EDUCATION SERVICES.   (a)   In this section, "child-care and

9 education services" means:

10   (1) subsidized child-care and education services

11 administered by the commission and local workforce development

12 boards and funded wholly or partly by federal child-care

13 development funds;

14   (2) child-care and education services provided by a

15 Head Start or Early Head Start program provider;

16   (3) child-care and education services provided by a

17 school district through a prekindergarten or after-school program;

18 and

19   (4) any other government-funded child-care and

20 education services, other than education and services provided by a

21 school district as part of the general program of public and

22 secondary education, designed to educate or provide care for

23 children under the age of 12 in middle-income or low-income

24 families.

1   (b) The commission by rule shall develop and implement a

2   program to award grants to entities providing child-care and

3   education services, including local workforce development boards,

4   school districts, Head Start and Early Head Start program

5   providers, and political subdivisions of this state, for the

6   purchase and use of a computer software tool or package that:

7   (1) provides for a single point of access through

8   which a person may apply for all child-care and education services

9   available in the person's community;

10   (2) facilitates collaboration in the provision,

11 delivery, and funding of child-care and education services; and

12   (3) is approved by the commission.

13 (c) The commission by rule shall prescribe eligibility

14 criteria to receive a grant under the program and the manner in

15 which an entity must use the software program purchased with the

16 grant to provide for the effective administration of child-care and

17 education services.

18 (d) To the extent allowed by federal law, the commission may

19 allocate federal child-care development funds for the purposes of

20 the program.

21 (e) The commission shall submit to the legislature an annual

22 report regarding the administration of the program during the

23 preceding year. At a minimum, the report must:

24   (1) include the number and total amount of grants

25 awarded during the period covered by the report; and

26   (2) describe the effectiveness of the use of the

27 software system described by Subsection (b) in the provision and

1 delivery of child-care and education services.

2 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act

3 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a

4 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,

5 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or

6 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the

7 waiver or authorization is granted.

8 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date

9 of this Act, the Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules

10 necessary for the implementation of Section 301.070, Labor Code, as

11 added by this Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.