

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 2324

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to quality improvement activities for certain subsidized child-care services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2308.3175 to read as follows:

Sec. 2308.3175. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILD-CARE SERVICES. (a) In this section, "subsidized child-care services" means subsidized child-care services administered by the commission and a board and funded wholly or partly by federal child-care development funds.

(b) The commission by rule shall establish a program under which a board awards grants to child-care providers and community-based organizations for use in providing quality improvement activities to improve the quality and availability of subsidized child-care services in the workforce development area.

(c) The commission by rule shall prescribe eligibility criteria for receipt of a grant under the program.

(d) In developing the program under this section, the commission 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;

1 (B) publication of quality indicators to
2 evaluate child-care services;

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

5 (D) parent referral services;

6 (2) professional development activities for
7 providers, including:

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

10 (B) scholarship information and assistance; and

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

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

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

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

21 (6) child-care resource and referral services for
22 parents;

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

26 (8) other activities the commission determines will
27 increase parental choice and improve the quality and availability

1 of subsidized child-care services.

2 (e) The commission shall allocate funds to the boards for
3 use in administering the program, subject to guidelines established
4 by the commission. To the extent allowed by federal law, the
5 commission may allocate federal child-care development funds for
6 the purposes of the program.

7 (f) In developing and administering the program, the
8 commission and each board shall ensure that local providers and
9 organizations have the option to choose which of the quality
10 improvement activities described by Subsection (d) the provider or
11 organization wants to provide under the program.

12 (g) The commission shall submit to the legislature an annual
13 report regarding the operation of the program during the preceding
14 year. At a minimum, the report must include the number and total
15 amount of grants awarded by each board during the period covered by
16 the report. A board must provide information to the commission as
17 necessary to enable the commission to prepare the report required
18 by this subsection.

19 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
20 of this Act, the Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules
21 necessary for the implementation of Section 2308.3175, Government
22 Code, as added by this Act.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.