

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 2327

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2327:

By: Delisi

C.S.H.B. No. 2327

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of the blue ribbon task force on early
3 childhood education.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) The blue ribbon task force on early
6 childhood education is created to:

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

11 (2) recommend options to secure additional funding for
12 these programs;

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

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

23 (5) develop a common set of high standards and
24 eligibility criteria for community partnerships between school

1 districts, early childhood care and education programs, and Head
2 Start programs; and

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

5 (b) The task force consists of nine members appointed as
6 follows:

7 (1) three members of the public appointed by the
8 governor;

9 (2) three members of the senate appointed by the
10 lieutenant governor; and

11 (3) three members of the house of representatives
12 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

13 (c) The governor shall appoint one public member as the
14 public chair. The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
15 representatives shall each appoint one member as co-presiding
16 officers with the public chair.

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

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

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

26 SECTION 2. This Act expires September 1, 2007.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.