

1-1 By: Paxton (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 2959
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 13, 2005;
1-3 May 16, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Business
1-4 and Commerce; May 20, 2005, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0;
1-6 May 20, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2959 By: Averitt

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the use of federal child care and development block
1-11 grant funds by local workforce development boards.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 42, Human Resources Code,
1-14 is amended by adding Sections 42.061 and 42.062 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 42.061. USE OF CERTAIN DEDICATED CHILD-CARE FUNDS.

1-16 (a) If the state is required to dedicate more than four percent of
1-17 the amount of federal child-care development funds for the purposes
1-18 provided by 42 U.S.C. Section 9858e, the Texas Workforce
1-19 Commission, unless otherwise required by federal law and
1-20 notwithstanding any other state law, shall ensure that the
1-21 additional quality money required will be used to establish and
1-22 implement the grant program for quality improvement activities
1-23 under Section 42.062.

1-24 (b) The Texas Workforce Commission shall enter into a
1-25 memorandum of understanding with the department under which:

1-26 (1) the commission transfers the dedicated funds in
1-27 excess of four percent as described by Subsection (a) to the
1-28 department; and

1-29 (2) the department uses the transferred funds to
1-30 implement the grant program for quality improvement activities
1-31 under Section 42.062.

1-32 Sec. 42.062. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILD-CARE
1-33 SERVICES. (a) Subject to the availability of funds under Section
1-34 42.061 or from another source, the executive commissioner by rule
1-35 shall establish a program under which the department awards grants
1-36 to child-care providers and community-based organizations for use
1-37 in providing quality improvement activities to improve the quality
1-38 and availability of child-care services.

1-39 (b) The executive commissioner by rule shall prescribe
1-40 eligibility criteria for receipt of a grant under the program.

1-41 (c) In developing the program under this section, the
1-42 executive commissioner shall adopt a list of quality improvement
1-43 activities for which a provider or organization is eligible to
1-44 receive funding through the program. The list of activities must
1-45 include:

1-46 (1) comprehensive consumer education encompassing:

1-47 (A) parent education programs;

1-48 (B) publication of quality indicators to
1-49 evaluate child-care services;

1-50 (C) data collection regarding child-care and
1-51 early childhood education programs; and

1-52 (D) parent referral services;

1-53 (2) professional development activities for
1-54 providers, including:

1-55 (A) training, educational materials, or
1-56 technical assistance;

1-57 (B) scholarship information and assistance; and

1-58 (C) strategies to increase salaries or other
1-59 forms of compensation;

1-60 (3) teacher training programs, mentoring programs, or
1-61 other programs or activities that promote early development of
1-62 language, literacy, and mathematical skills in young children;

1-63 (4) programs or activities that promote inclusive

2-1 child care;

2-2 (5) activities promoted by the State Center for Early
2-3 Childhood Development and other activities designed to promote the
2-4 school readiness of young children;

2-5 (6) use of infant and toddler specialists to educate
2-6 parents and provide training and technical assistance to child-care
2-7 providers; and

2-8 (7) other activities the department determines will
2-9 increase parental choice and improve the quality and availability
2-10 of child-care services.

2-11 (d) To the extent allowed by federal law, the department
2-12 shall use federal child-care development funds transferred under
2-13 Section 42.061 for the purposes of the program. The department may
2-14 use other available funds for the purposes of the program.

2-15 (e) In developing the program, the executive commissioner
2-16 shall ensure that the department administers the program in a
2-17 manner that allows local providers and organizations to choose
2-18 which of the quality improvement activities described by Subsection
2-19 (c) the provider or organization wants to provide under the
2-20 program.

2-21 (f) In awarding grants under the program, the department
2-22 shall give priority to quality improvement activities for programs
2-23 that serve infants and toddlers younger than three years of age.

2-24 (g) The department shall submit to the legislature an annual
2-25 report regarding the operation of the program during the preceding
2-26 year. At a minimum, the report must include the number and total
2-27 amount of grants awarded by the department during the period
2-28 covered by the report.

2-29 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
2-30 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
2-31 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary for the
2-32 implementation of Section 42.062, Human Resources Code, as added by
2-33 this Act.

2-34 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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