

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 23

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to subsidized child-care services and early childhood care and education program coordination.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 29.155(g) and (i), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(g) From amounts appropriated for the purposes of this subsection, the commissioner shall ~~[may also]~~ provide for:

(1) coordinating early childhood care and education programs;

(2) developing and disseminating for programs described by Subdivision (1) prekindergarten instructional materials and school-readiness information for parents; and

(3) developing standards for model early childhood care and education coordination.

(i) In carrying out the purposes of Subsection (g), a school district or open-enrollment charter school may use funds granted to the district or school under that ~~[this]~~ subsection in contracting with another entity, including a private entity.

SECTION 2. Section 29.1561, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The commissioner by rule shall establish a program to award financial incentives to providers of early childhood care and education programs that, to the greatest extent practicable,

1 provide coordinated services authorized under Section 29.158(c).

2 SECTION 3. Section 29.160(c), Education Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (c) A school district, regional education service center,
5 institution of higher education, local government, local workforce
6 development board, or community organization may develop three
7 [~~one~~] or more coordination-of-resources demonstration projects
8 under which government-funded child-care services are operated in a
9 coordinated manner. An entity that develops a proposed
10 demonstration project under this subsection must obtain approval of
11 the project from the state agency or agencies with regulatory
12 jurisdiction over the subject matter involved in the project.

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