

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 1141

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a demonstration project to provide consultation services to certain child-care providers.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter P to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER P. BABY STEPS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Sec. 531.601. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Association" means the Texas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, a Texas nonprofit organization that provides a statewide network of child-care resources and referrals and that contracts with the office under Section 531.602(c) to assist in coordinating the project implemented under this subchapter.

(2) "Child-care provider" means a child-care facility or family home regulated by the department under Chapter 42, Human Resources Code, that provides care to infants and toddlers.

(3) "Community coordination committee" means a committee established by a regional child-care mentor under Section 531.606(c)(7).

(4) "Department" means the Department of Family and Protective Services.

(5) "Multidisciplinary child-care consultants" means the network of consultants identified by a regional child-care

1 mentor under Section 531.606(c)(8).

2 (6) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood
3 Coordination established under Subchapter H.

4 (7) "Participating provider" means a child-care
5 provider that participates in the project.

6 (8) "Project" means the baby steps demonstration
7 project implemented under this subchapter.

8 (9) "Regional child-care mentor" means the person
9 hired by a regional coordinating agency under Section 531.605(b).

10 (10) "Regional coordinating agency" means the
11 community-based organization selected by the association under
12 Section 531.604(1).

13 Sec. 531.602. BABY STEPS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT. (a) The
14 office, in consultation with the department, the State Center for
15 Early Childhood Development, and other state agencies as the office
16 determines appropriate, shall implement a baby steps demonstration
17 project for a two-year period in at least two but not more than four
18 regions in this state. The demonstration project shall provide a
19 coordinated network of qualified consultants at a community level
20 to assist certain child-care providers to meet the health, safety,
21 and nurturing needs of infants and toddlers in the providers' care.
22 The project is designed to:

23 (1) increase child-care provider awareness of
24 community resources;

25 (2) increase utilization of community resources by
26 child-care providers;

27 (3) expand child-care provider access to

1 multidisciplinary supports;

2 (4) reduce the number of complaints filed with the
3 department against child-care providers;

4 (5) reduce the number of licensing violations
5 committed by child-care providers;

6 (6) educate child-care providers about safe and
7 developmentally appropriate care of infants and toddlers;

8 (7) reduce the child expulsion rates of child-care
9 providers;

10 (8) reduce child-care providers' staff turnover rates;

11 (9) provide stable responsive relationships between
12 caregivers employed by child-care providers and the infants and
13 toddlers for whom they care; and

14 (10) increase parental satisfaction with the care
15 provided to the parents' infants and toddlers.

16 (b) A community served by the project must:

17 (1) have child-care providers within the community
18 with a high need for technical assistance and support, as reflected
19 in reports by the department concerning corrective and adverse
20 actions taken against those providers;

21 (2) have existing community resources available to
22 support project components; and

23 (3) support the implementation of the project.

24 (c) The office shall:

25 (1) oversee the project;

26 (2) ensure the coordination and collaboration of
27 services under the project;

1 (3) work with the department to develop a procedure to
2 identify and contact qualifying child-care providers; and

3 (4) contract with the association to coordinate the
4 services provided under the project and to provide the other
5 services required under this subchapter.

6 Sec. 531.603. PARTICIPATION BY CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS. (a) A
7 child-care provider is eligible to volunteer for participation in
8 the project if the provider is regulated by the department, cares
9 for infants and toddlers, and:

10 (1) has a history of complaints and noncompliance in
11 maintaining child-care licensing standards, as documented by the
12 Department of Family and Protective Services; or

13 (2) is otherwise approved by the regional child-care
14 mentor, under the guidance of the office and association.

15 (b) A child-care provider that participates in the project
16 may not be charged for services or resources received under the
17 project.

18 (c) A child-care provider that participates in the project
19 must enter into an agreement with the regional child-care mentor to
20 actively engage in the project and to complete any evaluation
21 measures requested by the mentor relating to the project.

22 Sec. 531.604. ASSOCIATION. The association shall:

23 (1) contract and work with a community-based
24 organization that is to serve as the regional coordinating agency
25 within a region;

26 (2) collect project data; and

27 (3) assist regional coordinating agencies in

1 contracting with a person to serve as the regional child-care
2 mentor within a region.

3 Sec. 531.605. REGIONAL COORDINATING AGENCIES. (a) A
4 community-based organization selected by the association to serve
5 as a regional coordinating agency must have the support of
6 child-care providers and a demonstrated history of:

7 (1) ongoing relationships with the child-care
8 provider population to be served by the project;

9 (2) providing training, technical assistance, and
10 other support services to the population being served; and

11 (3) conducting program assessments, on-site
12 consultations, meetings, training, and quality improvement
13 projects with the population to be served by the project.

14 (b) Subject to Sections 531.604(3) and 531.606(b), the
15 regional coordinating agency shall hire and supervise the regional
16 child-care mentor.

17 Sec. 531.606. REGIONAL CHILD-CARE MENTORS. (a) A regional
18 child-care mentor is responsible for creating and coordinating a
19 system of community support for child-care providers within a
20 region to assist those providers in meeting the health, safety, and
21 developmental needs of infants and toddlers in the providers' care.
22 The mentor in each region may develop the system of support
23 according to the needs and resources available in the community.

24 (b) A person is qualified to serve as a regional child-care
25 mentor if the person holds an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate
26 degree that relates to early childhood development or education or
27 another credential that qualifies the person to serve as a regional

1 child-care mentor, as determined by the regional coordinating
2 agency under the guidance of the office.

3 (c) The regional child-care mentor shall:

4 (1) work with the child-care licensing division of the
5 department in the region to identify child-care providers in the
6 community that meet the requirements of Section 531.603(a)(1);

7 (2) reach out to child-care providers identified under
8 Subdivision (1) and seek their participation in the project;

9 (3) provide project services to at least 12 and not
10 more than 15 child-care providers unless the regional child-care
11 mentor determines, under the guidance of the office and the
12 association, that the mentor can provide services to more than 15
13 providers;

14 (4) enter into an agreement with each participating
15 provider in accordance with Section 531.603(c);

16 (5) establish working relationships with
17 participating providers that:

18 (A) are collaborative, strengths-based in
19 nature, and characterized by open and active communication; and

20 (B) are based on trust and respect;

21 (6) provide ongoing consultation services to
22 participating providers, which may be conducted on-site or through
23 telephone call or e-mail, and may include program assessments and
24 the facilitation of monthly meetings with other participating
25 providers to build a community network to offer support and
26 guidance;

27 (7) establish a community coordination committee

1 composed of representatives from local organizations within a
2 community to assist in providing technical assistance, support
3 services, and expertise to participating providers;

4 (8) with the assistance of the community coordination
5 committee, identify and establish a network of multidisciplinary
6 child-care consultants within the community, which may include
7 child-care health consultants, infant and toddler specialists,
8 Texas Association of Infant Mental Health credentialed
9 professionals, positive behavioral support consultants, early
10 childhood intervention program staff, and other professionals
11 available through local agencies, to provide group training,
12 technical assistance, and other resources to participating
13 providers, and specialized consultations with those providers as
14 needed; and

15 (9) collect data necessary to evaluate project
16 outcomes.

17 Sec. 531.607. COMMUNITY COORDINATION COMMITTEES. A
18 community coordination committee established under Section
19 531.606(c)(7) is responsible for:

20 (1) assisting the regional child-care mentor to
21 identify potential multidisciplinary child-care consultants to
22 participate in the project;

23 (2) promoting the development of consultants in rural
24 areas;

25 (3) identifying local funding resources and other
26 community resources available to assist participating providers in
27 improving the safety and quality of the care provided to infants and

1 toddlers;

2 (4) identifying challenges facing participating
3 providers and solutions to address those challenges; and

4 (5) helping to educate parents about quality infant
5 and toddler care.

6 Sec. 531.608. MULTIDISCIPLINARY CHILD-CARE CONSULTANTS.

7 (a) Multidisciplinary child-care consultants identified under
8 Section 531.607(1) shall provide services to participating
9 providers as part of their agency's or organization's, if
10 applicable, standard service delivery.

11 (b) If an appropriate consultant is not available through a
12 participating organization or agency, an independent consultant
13 may be used on a fee-for-service basis and paid for by the project.

14 Sec. 531.609. FUNDING. The office may use appropriated
15 funds from the state and may accept gifts, donations, and grants of
16 money from the federal government, local governments, private
17 corporations, or other persons to assist in financing the project.

18 Sec. 531.610. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. Not later than
19 December 1, 2008, the commission shall submit a report to the
20 legislature that:

21 (1) evaluates the operation of the project; and

22 (2) makes recommendations regarding the continuation
23 or expansion of the project.

24 Sec. 531.611. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires November
25 2, 2009.

26 SECTION 2. Not later than November 1, 2007, the Office of
27 Early Childhood Coordination shall implement the demonstration

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1 project to provide consultation services to certain child-care
2 providers required under Subchapter P, Chapter 531, Government
3 Code, as added by this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.