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H.B. No. 136

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing notification to parents of eligible children
of the availability of prekindergarten programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
amended by adding Section 29.1534 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.1534. NOTIFICATION OF PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

(a) In this section, "prekindergarten program" includes
prekindergarten programs provided by a private entity through a
partnership with the school district.

(b) The agency shall develop joint strategies with other
state agencies regarding methods to increase community awareness of
prekindergarten programs through programs that provide information
relating to public assistance programs.

(c) The agency may develop outreach materials for use by
school districts to increase community awareness of
prekindergarten programs.

(d) Each school district shall report annually to the agency
the strategies implemented by the school district to increase
community awareness of prekindergarten programs offered by the
district. The district shall report the information on a form
prescribed by the commissioner. A report required by this
subsection may be combined, at the discretion of the commissioner,
with another report that the district submits to the agency.

1 (e) Not later than the 90th day after the date the agency
2 receives a report from a school district as required by Subsection
3 (d), the agency shall post the report on the agency's Internet
4 website.

5 (f) Not later than April 1, 2010, the agency shall conduct a
6 study to identify effective methods to communicate to the parent of
7 an eligible child the availability of prekindergarten programs.
8 The study must include research on providing information regarding
9 prekindergarten programs through public, private, and nonprofit
10 institutions that provide assistance and support to families with
11 children eligible for prekindergarten programs. Not later than May
12 1, 2010, the agency shall make recommendations to school districts
13 based on the study regarding the most effective methods to increase
14 communication regarding the availability of prekindergarten
15 programs. This subsection expires June 1, 2010.

16 (g) Not later than December 1, 2010, the agency shall
17 prepare and deliver to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
18 house of representatives, and the presiding officer of each
19 legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
20 primary and secondary education a report detailing strategies
21 developed under Subsection (b) to increase community awareness of
22 prekindergarten programs. This subsection expires January 1, 2011.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.