

1-1 By: Villarreal, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Van de Putte) H.B. No. 136
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2009;
1-3 May 8, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Education; May 23, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0;
1-6 May 23, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 136 By: Van de Putte

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

1-10 relating to providing notification to parents of eligible children
1-11 of the availability of prekindergarten programs.

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

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 29.1534 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 29.1534. NOTIFICATION OF PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

1-16 (a) In this section, "prekindergarten program" includes
1-17 prekindergarten programs provided by a private entity through a
1-18 partnership with the school district.

1-19 (b) The agency shall develop joint strategies with other
1-20 state agencies regarding methods to increase community awareness of
1-21 prekindergarten programs through programs that provide information
1-22 relating to public assistance programs.

1-23 (c) The agency may develop outreach materials for use by
1-24 school districts to increase community awareness of
1-25 prekindergarten programs.

1-26 (d) Each school district shall report annually to the agency
1-27 the strategies implemented by the school district to increase
1-28 community awareness of prekindergarten programs offered by the
1-29 district. The district shall report the information on a form
1-30 prescribed by the commissioner. A report required by this
1-31 subsection may be combined, at the discretion of the commissioner,
1-32 with another report that the district submits to the agency. Not
1-33 later than the 90th day after the date the agency receives a report
1-34 from a school district as required by this subsection, the agency
1-35 shall post the report on the agency's Internet website. This
1-36 subsection expires September 1, 2013.

1-37 (e) The agency shall provide information to school
1-38 districts regarding effective methods to communicate to the parent
1-39 of an eligible child the availability of prekindergarten programs,
1-40 including information regarding prekindergarten programs through
1-41 public, private, and nonprofit institutions that provide
1-42 assistance and support to families with children eligible for
1-43 prekindergarten programs.

1-44 (f) Not later than December 1, 2010, the agency shall
1-45 prepare and deliver to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
1-46 house of representatives, and the presiding officer of each
1-47 legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
1-48 primary and secondary education a report detailing strategies
1-49 developed under Subsection (b) to increase community awareness of
1-50 prekindergarten programs. This subsection expires January 1, 2011.

1-51 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-52 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-53 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-54 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-55 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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