

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 3658
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Human Services
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Parents who work, attend school, participate in job training, and demonstrate financial need are eligible to receive subsidized child-care services through local workforce development boards administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. Interested parties believe that the state is missing a key opportunity to provide beneficial parenting education information to these parents. C.S.H.B. 3658 seeks to address this issue.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 3658 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to develop and implement a pilot program to offer parent orientation and other parent education programs to parents receiving subsidized child-care services through a local workforce development board. The bill requires the TWC to select one local workforce development board located in a rural area and one local workforce development board located in an urban area to participate in the pilot program. The bill requires a participating local workforce development board, not later than December 1, 2016, to competitively procure a curriculum for a parent orientation program to be offered by the board to parents initially receiving or waiting to receive subsidized child-care services and curricula for additional parent education programs for parents receiving subsidized child-care services to supplement parent orientation. The bill requires a local workforce development board, to the extent practicable, to procure commercially available parent education program curricula. The bill requires a board participating in the pilot program to ensure that the curriculum for each program includes information for parents relating to early brain development, child growth and development, the importance of continuity of child care, and strategies for employing positive child guidance, selecting a quality child-care program, and supporting a child's educational success.

C.S.H.B. 3658 requires a participating local workforce development board to offer parent orientation to a parent who is eligible to receive subsidized child-care services through the board but prohibits a board from requiring a parent to participate. The bill requires a participating board to ensure that a parent who participates in the parent orientation receives priority for child-care services within the parent's priority group, as established by the TWC, over those parents within the priority group who do not participate in the orientation. The bill requires each participating board to establish a deadline by which a parent who applies for subsidized child-

care services must complete the parent orientation in order to receive the benefit of participation.

C.S.H.B. 3658 requires a participating local workforce development board to use the parent orientation program curriculum procured by that board under the bill's provisions as the content of parent orientation and to offer parent orientation at least three times a month. The bill requires a participating local workforce development board to select an instructor for the parent orientation through a competitive procurement process in a manner consistent with certain statutory contracting guidelines or to select a contractor who is already providing workforce training or services to act as the instructor for parent orientation. The bill requires a parent orientation session to include both group discussion and video programming and to be at least 1-1/2 hours but not more than 3 hours in duration. The bill requires a participating board to provide parent orientation in English and in a second language appropriate to the demographic makeup of the community served. The bill authorizes a participating board to conduct parent orientation at a physical location where the board provides services or at a location in the community that is accessible to participants in the orientation and requires the board to provide the option to participate in parent orientation by video conference through the Internet.

C.S.H.B. 3658 requires a participating local workforce development board, in addition to offering parent orientation, to offer parent education programs using the parent education program curricula procured by that board to a parent receiving subsidized child-care services through the board. The bill prohibits a board from requiring a parent to participate in a parent education program. The bill authorizes a participating board to offer incentives to encourage participation in the parent education programs and requires that the programs be offered in the languages, locations, and manner described by the bill's provisions for a parent orientation.

C.S.H.B. 3658 authorizes a parent receiving subsidized child-care services through a participating local workforce development board who becomes ineligible for subsidized child-care services because of a child's excessive absences to retain eligibility for child-care services if the parent enrolls in a parent education program offered by a local workforce development board not later than the 30th day after the date the board sends notice of ineligibility to the parent and successfully completes the parent education program within the time designated by board policy. The bill specifies that a parent may retain eligibility for child-care services by completing a parent education program after only the first time the parent becomes ineligible for the services. The bill requires a participating local workforce development board to adopt policies to administer these provisions, including a policy that specifies the manner in which a parent proves successful completion of a parent education program and that ensures that a parent who became ineligible for subsidized child-care services will continue to receive child-care services while the parent is completing the parent education program.

C.S.H.B. 3658 requires the TWC to develop a process for evaluating the effectiveness of the parent orientation and education programs and determine performance measures for the evaluation process not later than January 1, 2018. The bill requires the evaluation process to provide for the collection of feedback from parents who participated in the programs and to determine whether the programs should be continued, modified, or expanded for statewide implementation. The bill requires the TWC, not later than January 15, 2019, to perform the evaluation and to issue a report to the legislature regarding the TWC's findings and recommendations regarding the programs. The bill's provisions expire January 15, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2015.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.H.B. 3658 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following comparison is organized and formatted in a manner that indicates the substantial

differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

INTRODUCED

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by adding Chapter 316 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 316. PARENT ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 316.001. PARENT ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) The commission shall develop and implement a pilot program to offer parent orientation and other parent education programs to parents receiving subsidized child-care services through a local workforce development board.

(b) The commission shall select one local workforce development board located in a rural area and one local workforce development board located in an urban area to participate in the pilot program.

(c) Not later than December 1, 2016, a participating local workforce development board shall develop a curriculum, including video programming, for a parent orientation program to be offered by the local workforce development board to parents initially receiving or waiting to receive subsidized child-care services. Not later than December 1, 2016, the participating local workforce development board shall also develop curricula for additional parent education programs for parents receiving subsidized child-care services to supplement parent orientation.

(d) A participating local workforce development board shall include in the curriculum for each program information for parents relating to:

- (1) early brain development;
- (2) child growth and development;
- (3) the importance of continuity of child care; and
- (4) strategies for:
 - (A) employing positive child guidance;
 - (B) selecting a quality child-care program; and
 - (C) supporting a child's educational success.

Sec. 316.002. PARENT PARTICIPATION

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by adding Chapter 316 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 316. PARENT ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 316.001. PARENT ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) The commission shall develop and implement a pilot program to offer parent orientation and other parent education programs to parents receiving subsidized child-care services through a local workforce development board.

(b) The commission shall select one local workforce development board located in a rural area and one local workforce development board located in an urban area to participate in the pilot program.

(c) Not later than December 1, 2016, a participating local workforce development board shall competitively procure a curriculum for a parent orientation program to be offered by the local workforce development board to parents initially receiving or waiting to receive subsidized child-care services. Not later than December 1, 2016, the participating local workforce development board shall also competitively procure curricula for additional parent education programs for parents receiving subsidized child-care services to supplement parent orientation. To the extent practicable, a local workforce development board must procure commercially available parent education program curricula.

(d) A participating local workforce development board shall ensure that the curriculum for each program includes information for parents relating to:

- (1) early brain development;
- (2) child growth and development;
- (3) the importance of continuity of child care; and
- (4) strategies for:
 - (A) employing positive child guidance;
 - (B) selecting a quality child-care program; and
 - (C) supporting a child's educational success.

Sec. 316.002. PARENT PARTICIPATION

IN PARENT ORIENTATION.

Sec. 316.003. PARENT ORIENTATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) A participating local workforce development board shall use the curriculum developed by that board under Section 316.001 as the content of parent orientation.

(b) A participating local workforce development board shall offer parent orientation at least three times a month.

(c) A participating local workforce development board member possessing qualifications described by Section 2308.256(g), Government Code, shall act as the instructor for parent orientation.

(d) A parent orientation session must:

(1) include both group discussion and video programming; and

(2) be at least 1-1/2 hours but not more than 3 hours in duration.

(e) A participating local workforce development board shall provide parent orientation in English and in a second language appropriate to the demographic makeup of the community served.

(f) A participating local workforce development board may conduct parent orientation at a physical location where the board provides services or at a location in the community that is accessible to participants in the orientation. The board shall provide the option to participate in parent orientation by video conference through the Internet.

Sec. 316.004. ADDITIONAL PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) In addition to parent orientation, a participating local workforce development board shall offer parent education programs using the curricula developed by that board under Section 316.001 to a parent receiving subsidized child-care services through the board. A board may not require a parent to participate in a parent education program.

(b) A participating local workforce development board may offer incentives to encourage participation in the parent

IN PARENT ORIENTATION.

Sec. 316.003. PARENT ORIENTATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) A participating local workforce development board shall use the parent orientation program curriculum procured by that board under Section 316.001 as the content of parent orientation.

(b) A participating local workforce development board shall offer parent orientation at least three times a month.

(c) A participating local workforce development board shall:

(1) select, in a manner consistent with contracting guidelines established under Section 2308.264, Government Code, an instructor for the parent orientation through a competitive procurement process; or

(2) select a contractor who is already providing workforce training or services to act as the instructor for parent orientation.

(d) A parent orientation session must:

(1) include both group discussion and video programming; and

(2) be at least 1-1/2 hours but not more than 3 hours in duration.

(e) A participating local workforce development board shall provide parent orientation in English and in a second language appropriate to the demographic makeup of the community served.

(f) A participating local workforce development board may conduct parent orientation at a physical location where the board provides services or at a location in the community that is accessible to participants in the orientation. The board shall provide the option to participate in parent orientation by video conference through the Internet.

Sec. 316.004. ADDITIONAL PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) In addition to parent orientation, a participating local workforce development board shall offer parent education programs using the parent education program curricula procured by that board under Section 316.001 to a parent receiving subsidized child-care services through the board. A board may not require a parent to participate in a parent education program.

(b) A participating local workforce development board may offer incentives to encourage participation in the parent

education programs.

(c) A participating local workforce development board shall offer the parent education programs in the languages, locations, and manner described by Sections 316.003(e) and (f).

Sec. 316.005. PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM IN LIEU OF TERMINATION.

(a) Subject to Subsection (b), a parent receiving subsidized child-care services through a participating local workforce development board who becomes ineligible for subsidized child-care services because of a child's excessive absences or because the parent violated the responsibility agreement required by Section 31.0031, Human Resources Code, may retain eligibility for child-care services if the parent:

(1) enrolls in a parent education program offered by a local workforce development board under Section 316.004 not later than the 30th day after the date the board sends notice of ineligibility to the parent;

(2) successfully completes the parent education program within the time designated by board policy; and

(3) otherwise cures the parent's ineligibility according to board policy.

(b) A parent may retain eligibility for child-care services by completing a parent education program as provided by this section after only the first time the parent becomes ineligible for a reason under Subsection (a).

(c) A participating local workforce development board shall adopt policies to administer this section, including a policy that:

(1) specifies the manner in which a parent proves successful completion of a parent education program under this section; and

(2) ensures that a parent described under Subsection (a) will continue to receive child-care services while the parent is completing the parent education program.

Sec. 316.006. EVALUATION AND REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.

Sec. 316.007. EXPIRATION.

SECTION 2. The Texas Workforce Commission is required to perform the evaluation and issue the report as required

education programs.

(c) A participating local workforce development board shall offer the parent education programs in the languages, locations, and manner described by Sections 316.003(e) and (f).

Sec. 316.005. PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM IN LIEU OF TERMINATION.

(a) Subject to Subsection (b), a parent receiving subsidized child-care services through a participating local workforce development board who becomes ineligible for subsidized child-care services because of a child's excessive absences may retain eligibility for child-care services if the parent:

(1) enrolls in a parent education program offered by a local workforce development board under Section 316.004 not later than the 30th day after the date the board sends notice of ineligibility to the parent; and

(2) successfully completes the parent education program within the time designated by board policy.

(b) A parent may retain eligibility for child-care services by completing a parent education program as provided by this section after only the first time the parent becomes ineligible for a reason under Subsection (a).

(c) A participating local workforce development board shall adopt policies to administer this section, including a policy that:

(1) specifies the manner in which a parent proves successful completion of a parent education program under this section; and

(2) ensures that a parent described under Subsection (a) will continue to receive child-care services while the parent is completing the parent education program.

Sec. 316.006. EVALUATION AND REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.

Sec. 316.007. EXPIRATION.

SECTION 2. Same as introduced version.

under Section 316.006, Labor Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 15, 2019.

SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the authorization is granted.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

SECTION 3. Same as introduced version.

SECTION 4. Same as introduced version.