

By: Wu

H.B. No. 296

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain prekindergarten programs offered by a school district.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.1551 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.1551. PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS RECEIVING STATE FUNDING. (a) A school district that receives Foundation School Program funds under Section 29.153 or grant funds under Section 29.155 for a prekindergarten program must offer an enhanced quality prekindergarten program and comply with this section.

(b) A school district may not enroll more than 22 students in a prekindergarten class and must maintain an average ratio of at least one teacher or educational aide for each 11 students in average daily attendance in prekindergarten classes.

(c) At least one teacher in each prekindergarten class must hold a bachelor's degree and appropriate teacher certification.

(d) Each teacher in a prekindergarten class must have a minimum of nine credit hours of college education courses emphasizing early childhood education.

(e) A school district must select the curriculum for the enhanced quality prekindergarten program from the list of curricula approved for that purpose by the commissioner.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016

1 school year.

2       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.