

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 1521

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state agency authority to establish child-care subsidy programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 659, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 659.062 to read as follows:

Sec. 659.062. CHILD-CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM. (a) A state agency using money appropriated to the agency by this state may establish a child-care subsidy program to assist the agency's low-income employees with their child-care costs. The assistance may be provided for full-time and part-time child care, before-school and after-school programs, and daytime summer programs.

(b) Two or more state agencies in a multitenant building may establish a child-care subsidy program and share the program costs to provide employees of the agencies with child-care services through a child-care facility located in the building.

(c) Except as prohibited under Subsection (d), a state agency may impose restrictions on the use of appropriated money for its child-care subsidy program based on employees' needs, the agency's staffing requirements, the local availability of child care, and other factors determined by the agency, including eligibility restrictions based on an employee's:

(1) full-time or part-time employment status;

1 (2) use of an on-site child-care facility;

2 (3) use of full-time child care; or

3 (4) use of child care in limited locations.

4 (d) A state agency that establishes a child-care subsidy
5 program under this section may not limit the payment of subsidies to
6 only child-care facilities licensed by this state under Chapter 42,
7 Human Resources Code.

8 (e) Subject to any restriction established under Subsection
9 (c), an employee who qualifies as a low-income employee under a
10 state agency's child-care subsidy program is eligible to receive a
11 child-care subsidy for the care of each child under age 13 or, for a
12 child with a disability, under age 18.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.