

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 2217

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the availability of free prekindergarten programs in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. *In 2005, I filed a version of this bill because I strongly believe in the need for early child education. I along with millions of other children who were born into families with adequate means have benefitted from the great advantage that pre-kindergarten education provides, and I will continue my efforts to make sure that these advantages are available to everyone. Ensuring that all Texas children receive the benefit of early childhood education is an important part of securing the future of this state.*

SECTION 2. Sections 29.153(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A district shall offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more children who are ~~[eligible under Subsection (b) and are]~~ at least four years of age. A school district may offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least three years of age. A district may not charge tuition for a prekindergarten class offered under this section.

(b) A child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class under this section if the child is:

- 1 (1) at least three years of age and is:
- 2 (A) [~~(1)~~] unable to speak and comprehend the
- 3 English language;
- 4 (B) [~~(2)~~] educationally disadvantaged; or
- 5 (C) [~~(3)~~] homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C.
- 6 Section 11302, regardless of the residence of the child, of either
- 7 parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person
- 8 having lawful control of the child; or
- 9 (2) at least four years of age.

10 SECTION 3. Section 29.1532(c), Education Code, is amended

11 to read as follows:

12 (c) A school district that offers prekindergarten classes

13 shall include the following information in the district's Public

14 Education Information Management System (PEIMS) report:

15 (1) demographic information, as determined by the

16 commissioner, on students enrolled in district prekindergarten

17 classes, including the number of students who are eligible for

18 classes under Section 29.153(b)(1) [~~29.153~~];

19 (2) the numbers of half-day and full-day

20 prekindergarten classes offered by the district; and

21 (3) the sources of funding for the prekindergarten

22 classes.

23 SECTION 4. Section 29.153(d), Education Code, is repealed.

24 SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016

25 school year.

26 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.