

By: King of Taylor

H.B. No. 3658

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the development and administration of a parent
3 orientation and education pilot program for recipients of
4 subsidized child-care services.

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

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

8 CHAPTER 316. PARENT ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

9 Sec. 316.001. PARENT ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION PILOT
10 PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall develop and implement a pilot
11 program to offer parent orientation and other parent education
12 programs to parents receiving subsidized child-care services
13 through a local workforce development board.

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

18 (c) Not later than December 1, 2016, a participating local
19 workforce development board shall competitively procure a
20 curriculum for a parent orientation program to be offered by the
21 local workforce development board to parents initially receiving or
22 waiting to receive subsidized child-care services. Not later than
23 December 1, 2016, the participating local workforce development
24 board shall also competitively procure curricula for additional

1 parent education programs for parents receiving subsidized
2 child-care services to supplement parent orientation. To the extent
3 practicable, a local workforce development board must procure
4 commercially available parent education program curricula.

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

8 (1) early brain development;

9 (2) child growth and development;

10 (3) the importance of continuity of child care; and

11 (4) strategies for:

12 (A) employing positive child guidance;

13 (B) selecting a quality child-care program; and

14 (C) supporting a child's educational success.

15 Sec. 316.002. PARENT PARTICIPATION IN PARENT ORIENTATION.

16 (a) A participating local workforce development board shall offer
17 parent orientation to a parent who is eligible to receive
18 subsidized child-care services through the board. A board may not
19 require a parent to participate in the orientation.

20 (b) A participating local workforce development board shall
21 ensure that a parent who participates in the parent orientation
22 receives priority for child-care services within the parent's
23 priority group, as established by the commission, over those
24 parents within the priority group who do not participate in the
25 orientation.

26 (c) Each participating local workforce development board
27 shall establish a deadline by which a parent who applies for

1 subsidized child-care services must complete the parent
2 orientation in order to receive the benefit of participation
3 described in Subsection (b).

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

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

10 (c) A participating local workforce development board
11 shall:

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

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

19 (d) A parent orientation session must:

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

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

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

27 (f) A participating local workforce development board may

1 conduct parent orientation at a physical location where the board
2 provides services or at a location in the community that is
3 accessible to participants in the orientation. The board shall
4 provide the option to participate in parent orientation by video
5 conference through the Internet.

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

13 (b) A participating local workforce development board may
14 offer incentives to encourage participation in the parent education
15 programs.

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

19 Sec. 316.005. PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM IN LIEU OF
20 TERMINATION. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), a parent receiving
21 subsidized child-care services through a participating local
22 workforce development board who becomes ineligible for subsidized
23 child-care services because of a child's excessive absences may
24 retain eligibility for child-care services if the parent:

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

1 ineligibility to the parent; and

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

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

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

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

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

16 Sec. 316.006. EVALUATION AND REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. (a)
17 The commission shall develop a process for evaluating the
18 effectiveness of the parent orientation and education programs and
19 determine performance measures for the evaluation process not later
20 than January 1, 2018.

21 (b) The evaluation process under this section must:

22 (1) provide for the collection of feedback from
23 parents who participated in the parent orientation and education
24 programs; and

25 (2) determine whether the parent orientation and
26 education programs should be continued, modified, or expanded for
27 statewide implementation.

1 (c) The commission shall issue a report to the legislature
2 regarding the commission's findings under this section and
3 recommendations regarding the parent orientation and education
4 programs.

5 Sec. 316.007. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires January 15,
6 2019.

7 SECTION 2. The Texas Workforce Commission is required to
8 perform the evaluation and issue the report as required under
9 Section 316.006, Labor Code, as added by this Act, not later than
10 January 15, 2019.

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

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