

By: Huberty, Bernal

H.B. No. 357

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of the children of certain first responders for free prekindergarten programs in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.153(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class under this section if the child is at least three years of age and:

(1) is unable to speak and comprehend the English language;

(2) is educationally disadvantaged;

(3) is a homeless child, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child;

(4) is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority;

(5) is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; [~~or~~]

1           (6) is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the  
2 Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary  
3 hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code; or

4           (7) is the child of a person eligible for the Star of  
5 Texas Award as:

6                   (A) a peace officer under Section 3106.002,  
7 Government Code;

8                   (B) a firefighter under Section 3106.003,  
9 Government Code; or

10                   (C) an emergency medical first responder under  
11 Section 3106.004, Government Code.

12           SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018  
13 school year.

14           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.