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By:  Goldman H.B. No. 3739

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to including certain child care providers in the Texas Rising Star Program and establishing a pilot program to expand participation in the Texas Rising Star Program.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 2308.3155, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

(a)  The Texas Rising Star Program is a [~~voluntary,~~] quality-based child care rating and quality improvement system of child care providers licensed by or registered with the Health and Human Services Commission [~~participating in the commission's subsidized child care program~~].

(b)  The commission shall adopt rules to administer the Texas Rising Star Program, including:

(1)  guidelines for rating a child-care provider who provides child care to a child younger than 13 years of age, including infants and toddlers[~~, enrolled in the subsidized program~~]; and

(2)  a timeline and process for regularly reviewing and updating the quality standards used to determine the rating system that includes the commission's consideration of input from interested parties regarding those standards.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter G, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2308.3157 to read as follows:

Sec. 2308.3157.  TEXAS RISING STAR PROGRAM PILOT PROGRAM. (a) A local workforce development board may operate a pilot program in the area in which the board operates to increase the number of quality child-care providers in the area. A pilot program under this section must increase participation in the Texas Rising Star Program by:

(1)  allowing all licensed and registered child-care facilities in the local workforce development area to participate in the Texas Rising Star Program;

(2)  requiring all subsidized child-care providers in the local workforce development area to participate in the Texas Rising Star Program;

(3)  allowing the local workforce development board to contract with subsidized child-care providers operating in the board's area and participating in the Texas Rising Star Program to provide child-care services; or

(4)  a combination of the methods described in Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3).

(b)  Each local workforce development board participating in a pilot program must:

(1)  provide quality improvement support and resources to participating child-care providers; and

(2)  give priority to child-care providers that:

(A)  operate in an area with a higher poverty rate than the state's average poverty rate; or

(B)  primarily serve low-income families.

(c)  A local workforce development board is not required to participate in a pilot program authorized by this section.

(d)  Not later than 18 months after the date a local workforce development board begins a pilot program authorized by this section, the board shall submit a report to the commission and the governor's Texas Early Learning Council that includes:

(1)  a summary of each local workforce development board's evaluation of the results of the board's pilot program; and

(2)  a recommendation regarding the method for implementing the pilot program and expanding the program to other local workforce development boards.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.