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By:  Deshotel H.B. No. 3876

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a work group to advise the Texas Workforce Commission regarding the Texas Rising Star Program.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter G, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2308.321 to read as follows:

Sec. 2308.321.  TEXAS RISING STAR PROGRAM REVIEW WORK GROUP. (a) The Texas Rising Star Program review work group is established to propose revisions to the commission's rules on the Texas Rising Star Program.

(b)  The work group consists of the following members appointed by the executive director of the commission:

(1)  at least one member from the commission;

(2)  at least one member from the Department of Family and Protective Services;

(3)  at least one member from the early childhood education division of the Texas Education Agency;

(4)  at least one member from the governor's Texas Early Learning Council;

(5)  at least one member who is appointed to a local workforce development board;

(6)  at least four members who are Texas Rising Star Program providers with different Texas Rising Star Program ratings:

(A)  at least one of whom must be a for-profit private provider;

(B)  at least one of whom must be a single-site provider;

(C)  at least one of whom must be a multi-site provider; and

(D)  at least one of whom must be an individual who provides child care in the provider's own home;

(7)  at least one provider who is a Texas School Ready! participant;

(8)  at least three members employed by different boards who work in the employing board's child-care program and have experience and expertise in early childhood development or the Texas Rising Star Program or other similar certification or accreditation programs; and

(9)  not more than three public members who are ineligible for appointment to the work group under Subdivisions (1)-(8) and whom the executive director considers indispensable to work group purposes.

(c)  The work group shall hold the group's initial meeting not later than November 1, 2019, and shall meet at other times as determined by the presiding officer.

(d)  The work group shall elect a presiding officer by a vote of the membership of the work group.

(e)  Not later than May 1, 2020, the work group shall submit to the executive director of the commission recommendations proposing revisions to the commission's guidelines relating to the Texas Rising Star Program. In making its recommendations, the work group shall consider:

(1)  professional development standards for child-care directors and employees, including training and annual professional development requirements;

(2)  education and experience requirements for mentors and evaluators;

(3)  early learning and school readiness standards;

(4)  guidelines for infants and toddlers in child care;

(5)  minimum training hours for providers;

(6)  playground standards, including outdoor learning environments;

(7)  nutrition standards;

(8)  standards for use of technology in child care;

(9)  best practices guidelines based on standards adopted by nationally recognized organizations, including Head Start Program Performance Standards, National Health and Safety Performance Standards, National Association for the Education of Young Children program standards and accreditation criteria, National Association for Family Child Care standards, United States Department of Defense standards, national accreditation standards, and Texas School Ready! participant standards;

(10)  research on infant and toddler brain development; and

(11)  strategies for the long-term financing of the Texas Rising Star Program, including:

(A)  financing the payment of:

(i)  incentives to child-care providers participating in the program; and

(ii)  grants and rewards to child-care providers that achieve and maintain high levels of service; and

(B)  strategies to support wage parity for child-care providers participating in the program.

(f)  Not later than September 1, 2019, the commission shall propose rules that incorporate the proposed revisions submitted by the work group under Subsection (e).

(g)  The executive director of the commission shall make the appointments under this section on September 1, 2019.

(h)  This section expires December 1, 2020.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.