

By: Deshotel

H.B. No. 680

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the evaluation of and improvements to the quality of the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child care program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 302.0042, Labor Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b) The commission's evaluation must assess:

(1) the use of current federal child care funds by each local workforce development board;

(2) the ability of each local workforce development board to meet child care performance measures;

(3) the estimated [average] cost incurred by child care providers [of child care] in each local workforce development area as stated in the report required under 45 C.F.R. Section 98.45(f)(1);

(4) the average price charged by child care providers for child care in each local workforce development area as stated in the market rate survey conducted under 45 C.F.R. Section 98.45(c);

(5) the poverty rate of each local workforce development area compared to the state's poverty rate;

(6) [~~5~~] the number of children on waiting lists for child care in each local workforce development area; [~~and~~]

(7) [~~6~~] the number of places that are reserved for

1 participants in the child care subsidy program out of the total
2 number of children enrolled with a provider on a full-time basis
3 categorized by age of the child for each provider [~~vacant slots~~
4 ~~available for child care placement~~] in each local workforce
5 development area that is certified as a 2-star, 3-star, or 4-star
6 provider in the Texas Rising Star Program or that does not
7 participate in the Texas Rising Star Program;

8 (8) the total number of child care providers
9 participating in the Texas Rising Star Program in each local
10 workforce development area and the number of 2-star, 3-star, and
11 4-star rated child care providers in the local workforce
12 development area;

13 (9) the number of child care providers participating
14 in the Texas Rising Star Program in each local workforce
15 development area as a percentage of the total number of subsidized
16 child care providers in the local workforce development area and
17 the number of 2-star, 3-star, and 4-star rated child care providers
18 in the local workforce development area as a percentage of the total
19 number of subsidized child care providers in the local workforce
20 development area;

21 (10) the total number of children enrolled in
22 subsidized child care providers participating in the Texas Rising
23 Star Program in each local workforce development area and the
24 number of subsidized children enrolled in 2-star, 3-star, and
25 4-star rated child care providers in the local workforce
26 development area; and

27 (11) the number of subsidized children enrolled in

1 child care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star Program
2 in each local workforce development area as a percentage of the
3 total number of subsidized children enrolled in child care
4 providers in the local workforce development area and the number of
5 subsidized children enrolled in 2-star, 3-star, and 4-star rated
6 child care providers in the local workforce development area as a
7 percentage of the total number of subsidized children enrolled in
8 child care providers in the local workforce development area.

9 (c) For the purposes of evaluation under this section, the
10 commission shall annually update the information described by
11 Subsections (b)(6)-(11).

12 SECTION 2. Section 302.0043, Labor Code, is amended by
13 adding Subsection (c-1) and amending Subsections (e) and (f) to
14 read as follows:

15 (c-1) The commission shall measure and evaluate the
16 progress of the commission's child care program regarding:

17 (1) coordination by the commission with the Texas
18 Education Agency to assign a Public Education Information
19 Management System (PEIMS) number to children younger than six years
20 of age enrolled in the commission's child care program;

21 (2) coordination with the Texas Education Agency,
22 school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools on any
23 prekindergarten quality improvement efforts;

24 (3) efforts to increase coordination between
25 participating providers in the commission's child care program,
26 school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools;

27 (4) facilitation of child care provider enrollment in

1 the Texas Rising Star Program and progression of providers to the
2 highest rating level in the program; and

3 (5) development and implementation of rates and
4 payments, as determined by local workforce development boards, to:

5 (A) allow participating providers to provide
6 high quality child care; and

7 (B) ensure that the commission meets performance
8 measures established by the legislature for the average number of
9 children served by the commission's child care program per day.

10 (e) The commission shall make the information collected by
11 the commission and the commission's findings available to local
12 workforce development boards, school districts, open-enrollment
13 charter schools, and the public.

14 (f) Not later than January 15 of each odd-numbered year, the
15 commission shall report to the legislature regarding the
16 commission's findings regarding the effectiveness of the
17 commission's child care program. The report must:

18 (1) include employment outcome information,
19 disaggregated by local workforce development area, regarding
20 parents receiving subsidized care under the program; ~~and~~

21 (2) identify multiyear trends in the information
22 collected and analyzed by the commission under this section,
23 including trends in the information for at least the five state
24 fiscal years preceding the date of the report; and

25 (3) include information described by Sections
26 302.0042(b)(8)-(11).

27 SECTION 3. Section 302.00435, Labor Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 302.00435. SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAM; INPUT
3 POLICY. (a) The commission shall develop a policy for obtaining,
4 through appropriate methods, input from interested parties
5 regarding its subsidized child care program and for using that
6 input in administering that program.

7 (b) The policy developed under Subsection (a) must include
8 methods for obtaining input from the Texas Education Agency, school
9 districts, open-enrollment charter schools, subsidized child care
10 providers, relevant businesses, and the public, regarding:

11 (1) improving coordination between the subsidized
12 child care program and prekindergarten programs; and

13 (2) increasing the quality of and access to the
14 subsidized child care program.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.