

By: Goldman

H.B. No. 3739

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to including certain child care providers in the Texas
3 Rising Star Program and establishing a pilot program to expand
4 participation in the Texas Rising Star Program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter G, Chapter [2308](#), Government Code, is
24 amended by adding Section 2308.3157 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 2308.3157. TEXAS RISING STAR PROGRAM PILOT PROGRAM.

2 (a) A local workforce development board may operate a pilot program
3 in the area in which the board operates to increase the number of
4 quality child-care providers in the area. A pilot program under
5 this section must increase participation in the Texas Rising Star
6 Program by:

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (2) give priority to child-care providers that:
24 (A) operate in an area with a higher poverty rate
25 than the state's average poverty rate; or

26 (B) primarily serve low-income families.

27 (c) A local workforce development board is not required to

1 participate in a pilot program authorized by this section.

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

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

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

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