By:  Menéndez S.B. No. 2081

(In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2021; April 1, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 30, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 1; April 30, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Taylor            X

Lucio                X

Bettencourt          X

Hall                     X

Hughes               X

Menéndez             X

Paxton               X

Perry                X

Powell               X

Schwertner                     X

West                 X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2081 By:  Menéndez

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to class size limits for prekindergarten classes provided by or on behalf of public schools.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 25.112(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Except as otherwise authorized by this section, a school district may not enroll more than 22 students in a prekindergarten, kindergarten, first, second, third, or fourth grade class. That limitation does not apply during:

(1)  any 12-week period of the school year selected by the district, in the case of a district whose average daily attendance is adjusted under Section 48.005(c); or

(2)  the last 12 weeks of any school year in the case of any other district.

SECTION 2.  Section 29.1532(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  If a school district contracts with a private entity for the operation of the district's prekindergarten program, the program must at a minimum comply with:

(1)  the applicable child-care licensing standards adopted by the Department of Family and Protective [~~and Regulatory~~] Services under Section 42.042, Human Resources Code; and

(2)  the class size requirement for prekindergarten classes imposed under Section 25.112(a).

SECTION 3.  Section 29.171(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  A prekindergarten program provided by a private provider under this section is subject to:

(1)  the requirements of this subchapter; and

(2)  the class size requirement for prekindergarten classes imposed under Section 25.112(a).

SECTION 4.  Section 12.056(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  A campus or program for which a charter is granted under this subchapter is subject to:

(1)  a provision of this title establishing a criminal offense; and

(2)  a prohibition, restriction, or requirement, as applicable, imposed by this title or a rule adopted under this title, relating to:

(A)  the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to the extent necessary to monitor compliance with this subchapter as determined by the commissioner;

(B)  criminal history records under Subchapter C, Chapter 22;

(C)  high school graduation under Section 28.025;

(D)  special education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29;

(E)  bilingual education under Subchapter B, Chapter 29;

(F)  prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E, Chapter 29, including prekindergarten class size limits under Section 25.112 and notice requirements under Section 25.113 if granted an exception from those limits;

(G)  extracurricular activities under Section 33.081;

(H)  health and safety under Chapter 38;

(I)  public school accountability under Subchapters B, C, D, F, and J, Chapter 39, and Chapter 39A; and

(J)  the duty to discharge or refuse to hire certain employees or applicants for employment under Section 12.1059.

SECTION 5.  Section 12.104(b), Education Code, as amended by Chapters 262 (H.B. 1597), 464 (S.B. 11), 467 (H.B. 4170), and 943 (H.B. 3), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(b)  An open-enrollment charter school is subject to:

(1)  a provision of this title establishing a criminal offense;

(2)  the provisions in Chapter 554, Government Code; and

(3)  a prohibition, restriction, or requirement, as applicable, imposed by this title or a rule adopted under this title, relating to:

(A)  the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to the extent necessary to monitor compliance with this subchapter as determined by the commissioner;

(B)  criminal history records under Subchapter C, Chapter 22;

(C)  reading instruments and accelerated reading instruction programs under Section 28.006;

(D)  accelerated instruction under Section 28.0211;

(E)  high school graduation requirements under Section 28.025;

(F)  special education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29;

(G)  bilingual education under Subchapter B, Chapter 29;

(H)  prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E or E-1, Chapter 29, including prekindergarten class size limits under Section 25.112 and notice requirements under Section 25.113 if granted an exception from those limits;

(I)  extracurricular activities under Section 33.081;

(J)  discipline management practices or behavior management techniques under Section 37.0021;

(K)  health and safety under Chapter 38;

(L)  public school accountability under Subchapters B, C, D, F, G, and J, Chapter 39, and Chapter 39A;

(M)  the requirement under Section 21.006 to report an educator's misconduct;

(N)  intensive programs of instruction under Section 28.0213;

(O)  the right of a school employee to report a crime, as provided by Section 37.148;

(P)  bullying prevention policies and procedures under Section 37.0832;

(Q)  the right of a school under Section 37.0052 to place a student who has engaged in certain bullying behavior in a disciplinary alternative education program or to expel the student;

(R)  the right under Section 37.0151 to report to local law enforcement certain conduct constituting assault or harassment;

(S)  a parent's right to information regarding the provision of assistance for learning difficulties to the parent's child as provided by Sections 26.004(b)(11) and 26.0081(c) and (d);

(T)  establishment of residency under Section 25.001;

(U) [~~(T)~~]  school safety requirements under Sections 37.108, 37.1081, 37.1082, 37.109, 37.113, 37.114, 37.115, 37.207, and 37.2071;

(V) [~~(T)~~]  the early childhood literacy and mathematics proficiency plans under Section 11.185; and

(W) [~~(U)~~]  the college, career, and military readiness plans under Section 11.186.

SECTION 6.  This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

SECTION 7.  To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 8.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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