

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 1621

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain
3 children.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 29.153(a-1) and (c), Education Code,
6 are amended to read as follows:

7 (a-1) A district shall offer prekindergarten classes to any
8 child who is at least four years of age if the district offers
9 prekindergarten classes. If [~~if~~] the district identifies 15 or
10 more children who are eligible under Subsection (b) and are at least
11 four years of age the district shall offer a prekindergarten class.

12 A school district may offer prekindergarten classes if the district
13 identifies 15 or more eligible children who are at least three years
14 of age. A district may not charge tuition for a prekindergarten
15 class offered under this section.

16 (c) A prekindergarten class under this section [~~may be~~
17 ~~operated on a half-day basis for children under four years of age~~
18 ~~and~~] shall be operated on a full-day basis [~~for children who are at~~
19 ~~least four years of age~~]. A district is not required to provide
20 transportation for a prekindergarten class, but transportation, if
21 provided, is included for funding purposes as part of the regular
22 transportation system.

23 SECTION 2. Section 29.1531(a), Education Code, is amended
24 to read as follows:

1 (a) A school district may offer on a tuition basis or use
2 district funds to provide[+]

3 ~~[(1) an additional half-day of prekindergarten~~
4 ~~classes to children who are eligible for classes under Section~~
5 ~~29.153 and are under four years of age; and~~

6 ~~[-2)]~~ half-day and full-day prekindergarten classes
7 to children not eligible for classes under Section 29.153.

8 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
9 school year.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.