

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 44

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a grant program to provide free public school
3 prekindergarten programs to certain children who are eligible for
4 the subsidized child-care program administered by the Texas
5 Workforce Commission.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 29.1537 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 29.1537. PREKINDERGARTEN COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD-CARE
10 PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The commissioner shall establish
11 and administer a grant program to support school districts and
12 open-enrollment charter schools in increasing partnerships with
13 community-based child-care providers to provide prekindergarten
14 classes under Section 29.153.

15 (b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may
16 apply for a grant under the program in partnership with a
17 community-based child-care provider described by Section
18 29.153(g).

19 (c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
20 shall use money received under the grant program to fund the
21 enrollment of eligible children in prekindergarten classes
22 provided under Section 29.153 through a partnership between the
23 district or school and a community-based child-care provider
24 described by Section 29.153(g). Notwithstanding Section

1 29.153(b), a child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten
2 class described by this subsection using money received under the
3 grant program if the child:

4 (1) is at least three years of age; and

5 (2) receives subsidized child-care services provided
6 through the child-care services program administered by the Texas
7 Workforce Commission.

8 (d) The commissioner may provide grants under the grant
9 program for the enrollment in each school year of not more than
10 3,500 children in a prekindergarten class described by Subsection
11 (c).

12 (e) The agency shall annually report to the legislature
13 regarding the number of children whose enrollment in a
14 prekindergarten class is funded as described by Subsection (c).

15 SECTION 2. Section 29.1537, Education Code, as added by
16 this Act, applies beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
22 legislative session.