

By: Smith

H.B. No. 121

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing a pilot program to provide school district employees assistance with child-care services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 22, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 22.012 to read as follows:

Sec. 22.012. CHILD-CARE SERVICES ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Child-care facility" has the meaning assigned by Section 42.002, Human Resources Code.

(2) "Pilot program" means the child-care services assistance pilot program established under this section.

(b) The agency shall establish the child-care services assistance pilot program to award grants to school districts to provide child-care services for children of district employees.

(c) A grant awarded to a school district under the pilot program may be used to:

(1) establish a child-care facility on district property;

(2) contract with a child-care facility to provide child-care services for children of district employees; or

(3) provide district employees with stipends to cover all or part of the costs of child-care services.

(d) The agency shall:

1 (1) establish criteria for awarding grants to school
2 districts under the pilot program that include criteria based on:

3 (A) the availability of child-care facilities in
4 a district;

5 (B) the need for child-care services assistance
6 among district employees; and

7 (C) any other factor the agency determines is
8 necessary and relevant; and

9 (2) to the extent practicable, award grants to a
10 representative sample of school districts, including at least:

11 (A) one school district with a student enrollment
12 of 10,000 or more;

13 (B) one school district with a student enrollment
14 of at least 2,500 but less than 10,000;

15 (C) one school district with a student enrollment
16 of more than 1,000 but less than 2,500; and

17 (D) one school district with a student enrollment
18 of 1,000 or less.

19 (e) To receive a grant under the pilot program, a school
20 district must apply to the agency in the form and manner prescribed
21 by the agency.

22 (f) Not later than September 1, 2026, each school district
23 that received a grant under the pilot program shall submit to the
24 agency a report that includes:

25 (1) an itemized list of each item on which the district
26 spent the grant money; and

27 (2) an evaluation of the pilot program by district

1 employees who received child-care services or a stipend under the
2 pilot program.

3 (g) Not later than December 1, 2026, the agency shall submit
4 to the legislature a report on the effectiveness of the pilot
5 program, using data reported to the agency under Subsection (f),
6 and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

7 (h) This section expires September 1, 2027.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
13 legislative session.