By:  Raney, Plesa, Bumgarner, Lopez of Bexar, H.B. No. 1979

     et al.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce development boards regarding the provision of child care.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 2308.256(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  A board is composed as follows:

(1)  representatives of the private sector, who:

(A)  constitute a majority of the membership of the board; and

(B)  are owners of business concerns, chief executives or chief operating officers of nongovernmental employers, or other private sector executives who have substantial management or policy responsibilities, including owners or operators of child-care businesses who must constitute not less than 10 percent of private sector representatives on the board;

(2)  representatives of organized labor and community-based organizations, who constitute not less than 15 percent of the membership of the board; and

(3)  representatives of each of the following:

(A)  educational agencies, including community colleges and secondary and postsecondary practitioners representing vocational education, that are representative of all educational agencies in the service delivery area;

(B)  vocational rehabilitation agencies;

(C)  public assistance agencies;

(D)  economic development agencies;

(E)  the public employment service;

(F)  local literacy councils; [~~and~~]

(G)  adult basic and continuing education organizations; and

(H)  the child-care workforce, including persons with expertise in child care or early childhood education who are not included in the representatives described by Subdivision (1)(B).

SECTION 2.  Section 2308.3171, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(c)  Each board shall post in a prominent place on the board's Internet website home page and at any physical location where the board provides services:

(1)  a list of local designated vendors that are child-care providers and have a quality child-care indicator listed in Subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), or (4); [~~and~~]

(2)  a list of local parenting classes;

(3)  information for parents regarding finding quality child-care providers;

(4)  information regarding the value of quality child care and the Texas Rising Star Program;

(5)  information for parents regarding:

(A)  eligibility for child-care assistance, including subsidized child-care services and other child-care scholarships;

(B)  the application process for child-care assistance; and

(C)  determining the status of a financial assistance application;

(6)  information for child-care providers regarding:

(A)  the process for accepting children whose parents receive child-care assistance; and

(B)  the Texas Rising Star Program certification process; and

(7)  contact information, including a telephone number and an e-mail address, where a child-care provider may receive assistance with questions or bring a grievance.

(c-1)  Each local workforce development board shall make the following information available to the public on a quarterly basis:

(1)  data regarding child-care waitlists, including the number of children in the board's workforce development area who are:

(A)  on a waitlist, disaggregated by age and zip code based on the child's home address;

(B)  taken off a waitlist and enrolled with a child-care provider under the subsidized child-care program; and

(C)  added to a waitlist during the quarter;

(2)  the number of children in the board's workforce development area receiving subsidized child care, disaggregated by zip code based on the child's home address;

(3)  data regarding child-care providers, including the number of providers in the board's workforce development area who during the quarter:

(A)  improved the provider's Texas Rising Star Program rating level;

(B)  had the provider's Texas Rising Star Program rating level decrease; and

(C)  received quality dollars from the board; and

(4)  data regarding the outcomes related to quality dollars provided by the board to child-care providers in the board's workforce development area.

SECTION 3.  Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 302.00434 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.00434.  SUBSIDIZED CHILD-CARE PROGRAM; RULE CHANGE POLICY. (a) The commission shall develop appropriate training and provide the training to local workforce development boards and persons who contract with a board to provide services related to the subsidized child-care program.

(b)  The commission shall develop a reasonable timeline for implementing each change the commission makes to:

(1)  the rules regarding the subsidized child-care program; and

(2)  the allocation of funds under the subsidized child-care program.

SECTION 4.  Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 302.0063 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.0063.  CHILD-CARE PERFORMANCE TARGETS. (a) The commission shall establish child-care performance targets in a manner that accounts for cost differentials related to providing child-care services to various populations. In setting the performance targets, the commission shall consider:

(1)  the total number of children served by child-care providers in a board's workforce development area;

(2)  the number of children served by Texas Rising Star Program providers in a board's workforce development area with a two-star, three-star, or four-star rating;

(3)  the needs and ages of children served by child-care providers in a board's workforce development area;

(4)  the types of providers commonly selected by parents in a board's workforce development area; and

(5)  any other factors determined necessary by the commission, including data-driven factors provided to the commission by a board.

(b)  The commission shall, at least once every six months during the performance period, review the commission's child-care performance targets and funding based on those targets and make adjustments based on the cost differentials the commission used at the time the performance targets were initially set.

SECTION 5.  Section 2308.256(g), Government Code, is repealed.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.