88R14342 ANG-D

By:  Bernal H.B. No. 4744

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing a program to allow certain child-care providers to provide free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch meals.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 302.00437 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.00437.  EARLY CHILDHOOD BREAKFAST AND LUNCH GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1)  "Child-care provider" means a day-care center or a group day-care home licensed under Chapter 42, Human Resources Code, or a family home registered under Chapter 42, Human Resources Code.

(2)  "Eligible child" means a child who:

(A)  is eligible for services from a federal Head Start or Early Head Start program;

(B)  receives subsidized child-care services; or

(C)  except for the child's age, meets a requirement of Section 29.153(b), Education Code.

(3)  "Eligible meal" means a breakfast or lunch that meets the nutritional requirements for:

(A)  the national school breakfast program as provided by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. Section 1773); or

(B)  the national school lunch program of free or reduced-price lunches under 7 C.F.R. Section 210.10 or a successor regulation.

(4)  "Program" means the early childhood breakfast and lunch grant program established under this section.

(b)  The commission shall establish the early childhood breakfast and lunch grant program to award grants to child-care providers to provide eligible meals to eligible children for free or at a reduced cost.

(c)  A child-care provider may elect to participate in the program. A child-care provider participating in the program shall offer eligible meals without charge or at a reduced cost to each eligible enrolled child.

(d)  From funds appropriated for the purpose, the commission shall provide grants to reimburse child-care providers that participate in the program for costs related to providing meals under Subsection (c) in an amount established by the commission that ensures each participating child-care provider is able to receive a grant.

(e)  The commission shall adopt rules to implement this section, including rules regarding the eligibility criteria for receiving a grant and the process for awarding a grant under this section.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.