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By:  Blanco S.B. No. 1844

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;

(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 the child-care workforce, who constitute not less than 25 percent of the membership of the board and who have:

(A)  at least five years of experience working in child-care, early childhood, or out-of-school programs, including organizations providing care and education services to children from birth until age 12 and organizations supporting quality or credentialing for the care and education of children from birth until age 12; or

(B)  expertise in child care or early childhood education; and

(4)  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.

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 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.  Section 302.0042(d), Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d)  In this section, "quality child care provider" means a child care provider that:

(1)  participates in the commission's Texas Rising Star Program as a three-star or four-star provider; or

(2)  is accredited by the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation Commission or the National Association for the Education of Young Children, or holds any other accreditation the commission determines meets the quality standards of the Texas Rising Star Program.

SECTION 4.  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. The commission shall develop appropriate written training and a reasonable timeline for implementing each change the commission makes to rules regarding the subsidized child-care program.

SECTION 5.  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 structure performance targets for child-care services to allow local workforce development boards to address the needs in the workforce development area identified by the board through a community needs assessment.

(b)  The commission may establish alternative performance targets that are set by different metrics including:

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

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

(3)  the number of infants and toddlers served by child-care providers in the board's workforce development area;

(4)  the number of children served by child-care providers in the board's workforce development area if the area is located in:

(A)  an area where the number of children younger than six years of age who have working parents is at least three times greater than the capacity of licensed child-care providers in the area; or

(B)  an area determined by the commission to be underserved with respect to child-care providers; and

(5)  the number of children served by providers in the board's workforce development area who provide care during non-traditional hours.

(c)  The commission by rule shall:

(1)  define the approval process for the alternative performance targets described by Subsection (b);

(2)  develop the components of and procedures for administering a community needs assessment in local workforce development areas; and

(3)  determine the allocation of funds to meet alternative performance targets.

SECTION 6.  Section 2308.256(g), Government Code, is repealed.

SECTION 7.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.