

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 1614

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). A child is eligible for enrollment

1 in a prekindergarten class described by this subsection using money  
2 received under the grant program if the child is:

3 (1) at least three years of age; and

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

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

11 (e) The agency shall annually report to the legislature  
12 regarding the number of children described by Subsection (c)  
13 enrolled in a prekindergarten class.

14 SECTION 2. Section 29.1537, Education Code, as added by  
15 this Act, applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.