

By: Button

H.B. No. 4698

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the collection and evaluation of data related to child
3 care programs in this state.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 302.0043, Labor Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsections (c-2), (c-3), and (c-4) to read as follows:

7 (c-2) The commission shall measure and evaluate the need for
8 and availability of child care in this state. The commission shall
9 consider:

10 (1) the total number of places available at all child
11 care providers in each local workforce development area categorized
12 by:

13 (A) subsidized and nonsubsidized places;

14 (B) filled and unfilled places;

15 (C) child care providers participating in the
16 Texas Rising Star Program and child care providers not
17 participating in the Texas Rising Star Program; and

18 (D) for those child care providers participating
19 in the Texas Rising Star Program, the provider's Rising Star
20 rating;

21 (2) the total number of children receiving child care
22 services in each local workforce development area categorized by:

23 (A) children receiving subsidized child care and
24 children receiving nonsubsidized child care;

1 (B) child care providers participating in the
2 Texas Rising Star Program and child care providers not
3 participating in the Texas Rising Star Program; and

4 (C) for those child care providers participating
5 in the Texas Rising Star Program, the provider's Rising Star
6 rating; and

7 (3) the total number of children on a waiting list to
8 receive child care in each local workforce development area
9 categorized by:

10 (A) children waiting for a subsidized place; and

11 (B) children waiting for a nonsubsidized place.

12 (c-3) The commission shall to the extent possible compare
13 the data under Subsections (c-2)(2) and (3) to ensure there are no
14 children counted under both subdivisions.

15 (c-4) The commission shall coordinate with the Health and
16 Human Services Commission to acquire data required under Subsection
17 (c-2).

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter **A**, Chapter **302**, Labor Code, is
19 amended by adding Section 302.00432 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 302.00432. DATA REPORTING PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this
21 section, "program" means the enhanced child care data reporting
22 pilot program established under this section.

23 (b) The commission shall develop and implement an enhanced
24 child care data reporting pilot program to enhance the commission's
25 ability to measure the need for and availability of child care in
26 this state.

27 (c) The commission shall partner with local workforce

1 development boards to conduct outreach to child care providers and
2 to recruit providers to participate in the program. The commission
3 shall ensure that participants in the program represent
4 geographically and demographically different areas of the state.

5 (d) A child care provider participating in the program shall
6 provide to the commission:

7 (1) the total number of places available at the
8 provider categorized by:

9 (A) subsidized and nonsubsidized places; and

10 (B) filled and unfilled places;

11 (2) the size of the provider's facility in comparison
12 to the number of places available;

13 (3) the number of places currently available in
14 comparison to the number of places that would be available at the
15 provider's maximum operational capacity;

16 (4) the total number of children on a waiting list to
17 receive child care from the provider categorized by:

18 (A) children waiting for a subsidized place; and

19 (B) children waiting for a nonsubsidized place;

20 and

21 (5) the number of employees who left employment with
22 the provider in the preceding year compared to the number of
23 additional employees the provider would need to operate at maximum
24 operational capacity.

25 (e) The commission shall to the extent possible compare the
26 data collected under the program to ensure that:

27 (1) no children are counted under both the total

1 number of children enrolled in a child care program and the total
2 number of children on a waiting list to receive child care in a
3 local workforce development area; and

4 (2) no children are counted on multiple waiting lists
5 when determining the number of children waiting for child care in a
6 local workforce development area.

7 (f) The commission shall sort data provided under this
8 section by local workforce development board.

9 (g) The commission shall work with the Health and Human
10 Services Commission to make joint recommendations to the
11 legislature on the development of an information technology system
12 that allows for the regular reporting and collection of the data
13 collected under the program statewide.

14 (h) Not later than December 1, 2024, the commission shall
15 provide a report to the legislature. The report must include:

16 (1) the local workforce development boards that
17 participated in the program;

18 (2) the types and characteristics of child care
19 providers in each local workforce development area that
20 participated in the program;

21 (3) the data collected through the program; and

22 (4) recommendations to the legislature to improve the
23 availability of child care in this state, including the
24 recommendations developed under Subsection (g).

25 (i) The commission may use any available funding to
26 implement the program.

27 (j) The commission shall ensure that no personally

1 identifiable information is disclosed in the report or the program.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.