

By: González of El Paso, Talarico, Simmons

H.B. No. 175

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

# 1 AN ACT

2 relating to establishing optional certifications for child-care  
3 providers participating in the Texas Rising Star Program and  
4 establishing a grant program for those providers.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 2308.3156 to read as follows:

8                   Sec. 2308.3156. OPTIONAL CERTIFICATIONS FOR TEXAS RISING  
9 STAR PROGRAM; GRANT PROGRAM. (a) As part of the Texas Rising Star  
10 Program, the commission shall create optional certifications that a  
11 child-care provider may obtain to enhance the provider's rating  
12 under the program.

13           (b) The optional certifications created under Subsection  
14        (a) must include a certification for child-care providers who  
15        provide for the inclusion of children with disabilities with their  
16        typically developing peers.

17           (c) The commission shall establish and administer a grant  
18 program to provide a child-care provider who receives an optional  
19 certification under this section with additional funding. The  
20 commission shall award a grant under this section to a provider in  
21 each year the provider receives or maintains an optional  
22 certification under Subsection (a).

23                   (d) To receive a grant under this section, a child-care  
24 provider who obtains an optional certification under Subsection (a)

1 must apply to the commission on the form and in the manner  
2 prescribed by commission rule.

3 (e) In determining the amount of a grant under this section,  
4 the commission must consider the age groups of children served by  
5 the provider and the provider's enrollment capacity.

6 (f) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and  
7 donations from any public or private source for purposes of this  
8 section.

9 (g) The commission shall adopt rules to administer this  
10 section.

11 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
12 of this Act, the Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules  
13 necessary to implement Section 2308.3156, Government Code, as added  
14 by this Act.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.