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H.B. No. 3963

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an early childhood integrated data system.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 2, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 10 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 10. EARLY CHILDHOOD INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEM

Sec. 10.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Cooperating entity" means the:

(A) Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston;

(B) Health and Human Services Commission;

(C) Texas Education Agency; and

(D) Texas Workforce Commission.

(2) "Early childhood interagency work group" means the work group established to promote collaboration across state agencies serving families with young children and that consists of representatives from the following state agencies:

(A) Department of Family and Protective Services;

(B) Department of State Health Services;

(C) Health and Human Services Commission;

(D) Texas Education Agency; and

(E) Texas Workforce Commission.

(3) "Lead agency" means the Texas Education Agency.

1           (4) "System" means the early childhood integrated data  
2 system established under this subchapter.

3           Sec. 10.002. INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
4 INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEM. (a) Subject to Section 10.003(1), the  
5 early childhood interagency work group shall initiate the  
6 development of the early childhood integrated data system for the  
7 purpose of facilitating the sharing of data from early childhood  
8 programs across state agencies to:

9           (1) inform policy related to early childhood programs  
10 at the state level; and

11           (2) guide improvements to early childhood programs to  
12 provide better outcomes for children and families.

13           (b) The system must be developed in a manner that:

14           (1) allows for the integration of existing state and  
15 federal data systems that are accessible to the cooperating  
16 entities and that contain data derived from early childhood  
17 services and programs;

18           (2) allows for the identification of and reporting on:  
19           (A) specific outcome measures using aggregated  
20 data that does not contain any identifying information, to the  
21 extent state or federal law, as applicable, expressly authorizes  
22 that use of the information;

23           (B) gaps in services;

24           (C) opportunities to align services and  
25 programs; and

26           (D) coordination needs across services and  
27 programs; and

1           (3) complies with state and federal laws relating to  
2 privacy, cybersecurity, and data collection, including rules  
3 establishing procedures to ensure that there is no unauthorized  
4 duplication or removal of confidential information.

5           (c) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to authorize  
6 the collection of data other than that described by Subsection  
7 (b)(1).

8           Sec. 10.003. LEAD AGENCY DUTIES. The lead agency shall:

9           (1) oversee the completion of the system initially  
10 developed under Section 10.002 in a manner consistent with the  
11 requirements of that section;

12           (2) implement and maintain the system with assistance  
13 from the early childhood interagency work group;

14           (3) provide staff to operate the system;

15           (4) using system data, conduct data matching using a  
16 protocol approved by the cooperating entities; and

17           (5) in coordination with the cooperating entities,  
18 oversee research projects related to the system.

19           Sec. 10.004. COOPERATING ENTITIES. (a) The lead agency and  
20 each cooperating entity shall enter into a memorandum of  
21 understanding regarding the sharing of data for purposes of the  
22 system. The memorandum of understanding must specify the data to be  
23 shared consistent with Sections 10.002(b)(1) and (c) and the  
24 frequency and manner of that data sharing.

25           (b) Each cooperating entity shall participate in the system  
26 and share data for purposes of the system as required by the  
27 memorandum of understanding.

1       Sec. 10.005. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) Not later than  
2 September 1 of each year, the lead agency shall submit to the  
3 governor and the legislature a report on the progress in  
4 developing, establishing, and operating the system.

5       (b) The initial report required by Subsection (a) must  
6 include:

7           (1) an interagency data governance plan that includes:

8                   (A) objectives relevant to the system and a  
9 framework for achieving those objectives;

10                   (B) the roles and responsibilities of all state  
11 entities involved in establishing and maintaining the system; and

12                   (C) documentation of relevant state and federal  
13 privacy, cybersecurity, and data collection laws, including rules;

14           (2) a design plan that includes:

15                   (A) data integration, security, storage,  
16 retention, management, processing, and analytics and other  
17 products; and

18                   (B) roles and responsibilities of relevant state  
19 entity personnel regarding data integration; and

20           (3) information on the status of:

21                   (A) hiring staff described by Section 10.003(3);

22                   (B) funding applied for and secured; and

23                   (C) the development of an Internet website that  
24 includes a preliminary, publicly available consumer data  
25 dashboard.

26       (c) Each report required by Subsection (a) following the  
27 initial report must include:

1           (1) updates to the information required by Subsection  
2 (b);

3           (2) an overview on business use cases the system can  
4 support; and

5           (3) information on the development of analytic tools  
6 based on the business use cases described by Subdivision (2).

7           Sec. 10.006. FUNDING; ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, GRANTS, AND  
8 DONATIONS. (a) The early childhood interagency work group, the  
9 cooperating entities, and the lead agency may use any available  
10 state or federal money to develop the system.

11           (b) The lead agency shall actively pursue grants or other  
12 money available from the state and federal government to operate  
13 the system.

14           (c) The early childhood interagency work group, the  
15 cooperating entities, and the lead agency may accept gifts, grants,  
16 and donations from any source for the purposes of this chapter.

17           SECTION 2. The Texas Education Agency shall undertake to  
18 ensure that the early childhood integrated data system established  
19 under Section 10.002, Education Code, as added by this Act, is  
20 completed not later than January 1, 2027.

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