

By: Harris Davila, Ordaz, Button

H.B. No. 4903

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative and the Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative Commission.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 3, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Chapter 74 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 74. QUAD-AGENCY CHILD CARE INITIATIVE

Sec. 74.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative Commission unless the context indicates otherwise.

(2) "Initiative" means the Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative established under this chapter.

(3) "Participating agency" means a state agency participating in the initiative, including:

(A) the Texas Workforce Commission;

(B) the Health and Human Services Commission;

(C) the Department of Family and Protective Services; and

(D) the Texas Education Agency.

(4) "Quad-Agency chair" means the chair of the commission.

Sec. 74.002. PURPOSE. (a) The Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative is established to foster collaboration, coordinate policies, and review and streamline regulations between the

participating agencies that govern child care in the state.

(b) The Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative Commission is established to lead the Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative.

Sec. 74.003. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The commission is composed of the following members:

(1) the chair of the Texas Workforce Commission;

(2) the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission;

(3) the commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services; and

(4) the commissioner of education.

(b) The chair of the Texas Workforce Commission shall serve as the chair of the commission.

Sec. 74.004. INTERAGENCY STAFFING. (a) The participating agencies shall enter into one or more interagency agreements establishing policies and processes for coordinating the assignment of existing staff and other resources as necessary to perform the duties of this chapter.

(b) The time spent by an employee of a participating agency in supporting the work of the initiative is not included in calculating the number of full-time equivalent employees allotted to the respective agencies under other law.

Sec. 74.005. DUTIES. The commission shall:

(1) coordinate participating agency initiatives that impact the cost, quality, or accessibility of child care;

(2) consider and start interagency initiatives to expand access to quality, affordable child care; and

1           (3) review and streamline existing or proposed  
2 regulations, rules, policies, or any other participating agency  
3 actions that impact the child-care industry to:

4                   (A) resolve regulatory conflicts and duplication  
5 among participating agencies;

6                   (B) lower insurance costs for child-care  
7 providers;

8                   (C) protect the health and safety of children  
9 participating in child care;

10                   (D) advance quality education for child-care  
11 providers; and

12                   (E) create consistent, predictable, and  
13 reasonable enforcement mechanisms among participating agencies.

14           Sec. 74.006. MEETINGS. (a) The commission shall meet at  
15 least three times each year.

16                   (b) The commission may meet in person or using a virtual  
17 platform that allows for a recording and live broadcast that is  
18 accessible to the public.

19                   (c) The commission is a governmental body for purposes of  
20 Chapter 551, Government Code.

21           Sec. 74.007. REVIEW BY COMMISSION. (a) The Quad-Agency  
22 chair may initiate an independent review by the commission of any  
23 existing or proposed regulation, rule, policy, or other  
24 participating agency action that may impact the cost, quality, or  
25 accessibility of child care to determine whether:

26                   (1) the regulation, rule, policy, or other agency  
27 action is consistent with the objectives identified in Section

1 74.005(3); and

2 (2) a less restrictive regulation, rule, policy, or  
3 other agency action could more effectively achieve the objectives  
4 identified in Section 74.005(3).

5 (b) In conducting a review under this section, the  
6 Quad-Agency chair may request additional information from a  
7 participating agency. A participating agency shall provide the  
8 additional information in writing as soon as practicable after  
9 receiving a request under this section.

10 (c) The commission shall:

11 (1) not later than the 10th business day after the date  
12 a review is initiated under this chapter, provide notice of the  
13 review, including instructions on how to submit public comments on  
14 the review:

15 (A) on the Texas Workforce Commission's Internet  
16 website;

17 (B) by e-mail to individuals who have subscribed  
18 to receive notifications through the Texas Workforce Commission's  
19 Internet website; and

20 (C) using any other relevant stakeholder  
21 communication platforms; and

22 (2) make the following available to the public on the  
23 Texas Workforce Commission's Internet website for each review  
24 conducted under this chapter for not less than two years from the  
25 date a determination is made under Section 74.011:

26 (A) all public comments submitted;

27 (B) all written agency submissions; and

1                    (C) the determination of the commission based on  
2 the review.

3            Sec. 74.008. RIGHT TO REQUEST REVIEW. (a) The commission  
4 shall establish a process by which members of the public, elected  
5 officials, or leadership from agencies that are not participating  
6 agencies may request a review of any existing or proposed  
7 regulation, rule, policy, or other participating agency action that  
8 may impact the cost, quality, or accessibility of child care.

9            (b) The Quad-Agency chair may grant a request to conduct a  
10 review requested under this section.

11           (c) The commission shall make all requests for review  
12 submitted under this section available to the public on the Texas  
13 Workforce Commission's Internet website for not less than two years  
14 from the date the commission receives the request.

15           Sec. 74.009. EXPEDITED REVIEW. (a) A participating agency  
16 whose existing or proposed regulation, rule, policy, or other  
17 agency action is being reviewed under Section 74.007 may request an  
18 expedited review.

19           (b) The Quad-Agency chair shall grant a request for  
20 expedited review if the participating agency demonstrates:

21                    (1) an extraordinary circumstance; or  
22                    (2) the need to meet a statutory or administrative  
23 deadline.

24           (c) If a request for an expedited review is granted, the  
25 Quad-Agency chair shall coordinate with the participating agency to  
26 accommodate completion of the review within the timeline requested  
27 by the agency.

1       Sec. 74.010. PUBLIC COMMENT. (a) For each review conducted  
2 under this chapter, the commission shall accept public comment  
3 through the Texas Workforce Commission's Internet website from the  
4 date notice regarding the review is provided under Section  
5 74.007(c)(1) until:

6               (1) the end of the 30th day after that date; or

7               (2) the end of the 10th day after that date for an  
8 expedited review granted under Section 74.009.

9       (b) As part of a review under this chapter, the Quad-Agency  
10 chair:

11               (1) shall consider all comments received within the  
12 public comment period provided under Subsection (a); and

13               (2) may consider public comments received outside of  
14 the public comment period provided under Subsection (a).

15       Sec. 74.011. DETERMINATION. (a) After a public comment  
16 period under Section 74.010 has closed, the commission shall render  
17 the commission's determination as to whether or not the existing or  
18 proposed regulation, rule, policy, or other participating agency  
19 action reviewed under this chapter is consistent with the  
20 objectives identified in Section 74.005(3).

21       (b) If the commission determines that the existing or  
22 proposed regulation, rule, policy, or other participating agency  
23 action reviewed under this chapter:

24               (1) is consistent with the objectives identified in  
25 Section 74.005(3), no further action will be taken; or

26               (2) is inconsistent with the objectives identified in  
27 Section 74.005(3), the participating agency whose existing or

1 proposed regulation, rule, policy, or other agency action was the  
2 subject of the review shall:

3 (A) immediately cease any enforcement activity  
4 related to the regulation, rule, policy, or other agency action;

5 (B) withdraw the regulation, rule, policy, or  
6 other agency action as soon as practicable; and

7 (C) if the participating agency considers  
8 appropriate, replace it with a less restrictive regulation, rule,  
9 policy, or other agency action.

10 (c) The commission may provide suggestions to a  
11 participating agency on less restrictive regulations, rules,  
12 policies, or other agency actions the agency may adopt to replace a  
13 regulation, rule, policy, or other agency action that the  
14 commission considers inconsistent with the objectives identified  
15 in Section 74.005(3).

16 (d) This section may not be construed to authorize the  
17 commission to require a participating agency to adopt a less  
18 restrictive regulation, rule, policy, or other agency action  
19 suggested by the commission under Subsection (c).

20 SECTION 2. Not later than March 31, 2026, the Quad-Agency  
21 Child Care Initiative Commission shall hold the first meeting  
22 required under Section 74.006, Human Resources Code, as added by  
23 this Act.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.