

- SUBJECT:** Creating a website for daycare providers and parenting resources
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Clardy, Klick, Meza, Miller, Noble, Rose
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Deshotel
- WITNESSES:** For — Kara Waddell, Child Care Associates; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jason Sabo, Children at Risk; Holly Deshields, City of Fort Worth; Melanie Rubin, Dallas Early Education Alliance; Garrett Landry, Early Matters Dallas; David Feigen, Texans Care For Children; Kimberly Kofron, Texas Association for the Education of Young Children; Jennifer Lucy, TexProtects; Julie Linn, The Commit Partnership)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jean Shaw, Health and Human Services Commission)
- DIGEST:** HB 3738 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to maintain a single, statewide website of daycare providers including daycare centers, group daycare homes, listed and registered family homes, and prekindergarten programs provided by public school districts or charter schools.
- The website would have to be user-friendly, easy to navigate, and designed to assist parents in locating and selecting daycare providers. It would have to include information to assist families in understanding the importance of licensed daycare facilities, an annual report compiled by HHSC on the number of deaths, serious injuries, and incidents of child abuse and neglect that occurred in daycare facilities, contact information for state and local agencies that could provide additional assistance to parents and individuals with questions, and information on each daycare

provider in the state. Daycare provider information would have to be searchable by:

- the provider's address and ZIP code;
- whether the provider was licensed, listed, or registered;
- the provider's hours of operation;
- the setting of the daycare provider;
- the ages of children served by the provider;
- whether the provider participated in the Texas Workforce Commission's childcare subsidy program;
- the provider's Texas Rising Star Program rating;
- the provider's status as an Early Head Start or Head Start provider;
- and
- inspection report.

The website would provide resources for parents on early childhood education and development and be easily accessible by persons who speak a language other than English and persons and families of persons with a disability. It also would include an optional profile for each daycare provider that included a brief narrative about the provider, services available, and photographs.

The website would have to be available through a mobile application, and HHSC could contract with a third party to establish the website and application. HHSC would have to consult with the Texas Early Learning Council in developing the website and would have to make it available to the public by January 1, 2020.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.