

SUBJECT: Amending duties of local workforce development boards on child care

COMMITTEE: International Relations & Economic Development — committee  
substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Button, Ordaz, Bumgarner, Clardy, Hayes, Meza, C. Morales,  
Plesa, Shine

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Chelsea Jeffery, Early Matters Dallas , The Commit Partnership;  
Sandy Dochen, Early Matters Greater Austin; Melanie Rubin, North  
Texas Early Education Alliance; David Feigen, Texans Care for Children  
(*Registered, but did not testify*: Jacquie Benestante, Autism Society of  
Texas; Kim Kofron, Children at Risk; Wendy Uptain, Early Matters;  
Annie Spilman, NFIB; Andrew Cates, Texas Association for the  
Education of Young Children; John Litzler, Texas Baptists Christian Life  
Commission; Kelsey Streufert, Texas Restaurant Association; Kerrie  
Judice, TexProtects; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Brooke  
Freeland; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

BACKGROUND: Under Government Code sec. 2308.253, the chief elected officials in a  
workforce development area may form, in accordance with rules  
established by the Texas Workforce Commission, a local workforce  
development board. Under sec. 2308.256 (1)(B), membership includes  
representatives of the private sector who are owners of business concerns,  
chief executives or chief operating officers of nongovernmental  
employers, or other private sector executives who have substantial  
management or policy responsibilities.

Some have suggested that updating statewide policies could strengthen the  
ability of local development boards to support the different types of child

care needed throughout the state.

**DIGEST:**

CSHB 1979 would specify that at least 10 percent of certain private-sector representatives on a local workforce development board would have to be owners or operators of child-care businesses. The board also would include representatives from the child-care workforce, including experts who were not included in the other representatives of the private sector. The bill would repeal a provision requiring that one member “have expertise in child care or early childhood education.”

Each board would be required to add certain items to the information posted on its website and at physical locations where the board provided services, including:

- information for parents on finding quality child care providers;
- information on the value of quality child care and the Texas Rising Star Program;
- other information for parents on certain aspects of child care;
- certain information for childcare providers; and
- contact information where a child care provider could receive assistance or bring a grievance.

Each board would make certain information regarding waitlists, subsidized child care, and child care providers public on a quarterly basis. The Texas Workforce Commission would develop and provide training to local workforce development boards and persons who contracted with the board to provide services related to subsidized child care.

The commission would establish child-care performance targets in a manner that accounted for differences in cost due to providing child-care to various populations. In setting performance targets, the commission would consider certain aspects related to childcare such as number of children served, needs and ages of children, and other factors. At least once every six months, the commission would review childcare performance targets and make adjustments based on the differences in cost the commission used at the time the performance targets were set.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.