

HB 1190 -- Coordinating Board for Early Childhood

Sponsor: Riback Wilson (25)

Currently, one of the duties of the Children's Services Commission is to develop a plan to improve the quality of child day care programs statewide. This bill expands that duty to developing a plan to improve the quality of children's programs statewide.

The bill establishes the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood within the Children's Services Commission. It specifies the membership of the board and the board's authority. The powers of the board will include:

- (1) Developing a comprehensive statewide, long-range strategic plan for a cohesive early childhood system;
- (2) Conferring with public and private entities to promote and improve the development of children from birth through age five;
- (3) Identifying recommendations for legislation to improve services for children from birth through age five;
- (4) Promoting the coordination of existing services and programs;
- (5) Promoting research-based approaches to services and ongoing program evaluation;
- (6) Identifying service gaps and advising entities on methods to close service gaps;
- (7) Administering the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood Fund; and
- (8) Taking actions necessary for the administration of the board.

The bill also establishes the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood Fund. The fund will consist of money appropriated by the General Assembly; received from grants, donations, and fees; and received as interest on deposits and investments.