

**SUBJECT:** Membership of local workforce development boards

**COMMITTEE:** Economic Development — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Oliveira, Yarbrough, Keffer, Luna, Raymond, Seaman, Siebert, Van de Putte

0 nays

1 absent — Greenberg

**WITNESSES:** For — Ed Bloom, Association for the Education of Young Children; Loretta R. Robertson, Child Care Providers Association

Against — None

On — Charlotte Brantley, Texas Workforce Commission

**BACKGROUND**  
:  
HB 1863 by Hilderbran, et al., was enacted by the 74th Legislature to restructure the state's welfare and workforce development programs. The bill set into motion a process for consolidating the state's workforce development and employment services and positions into the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and encouraging local workforce development boards to contract with private companies to provide these services.

Local workforce development boards oversee the delivery of workforce training and services in a workforce development area. Boards are charged with administering the Job Training Partnership Act, Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program, Food Stamp Employment and Training program, child care services and the Employment Service program.

Board members are appointed by local elected officials. The size of boards vary from region to region, but all boards must have representatives from the private sector, organized labor and community based organizations and educational, vocational rehabilitation, public assistance and economic development agencies, public employment services, local literacy councils and adult based and continuing education organizations.

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**DIGEST:** CSHB 905 would require that at least one member of an local workforce development board have expertise in child care or early childhood education in addition to other qualifications for membership.

The bill would take effect September 1, 1997, and apply to new members appointed to an existing board and to a new board created on or after September 1, 1997.

**NOTES:** The original version of the bill would have increased the size of local boards by adding a representative with expertise in child development and child care entities.