

1-1 By: Taylor S.B. No. 1955
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2021; April 1, 2021, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 26, 2021,
1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; April 26, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1955 By: Taylor

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to exempting learning pods from certain local government
1-23 regulations.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the Learning Pod
1-26 Protection Act.

1-27 SECTION 2. Subtitle E, Title 2, Education Code, is amended
1-28 by adding Chapter 27 to read as follows:

1-29 CHAPTER 27. LEARNING PODS

1-30 Sec. 27.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-31 (1) "Child-care facility" has the meaning assigned by
1-32 Section 42.002, Human Resources Code.

1-33 (2) "Learning pod" means a group of children who,
1-34 based on the voluntary association of the children's parents, meet
1-35 together at various times and places to participate in or enhance
1-36 the children's primary or secondary academic studies, including
1-37 participation in an activity or service provided to the children in
1-38 exchange for payment.

1-39 Sec. 27.002. EXEMPTION FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS.

1-40 (a) Notwithstanding other law:

1-41 (1) a learning pod is exempt from any ordinance, rule,
1-42 regulation, policy, or guideline adopted by a local governmental
1-43 entity that applies to a school district campus or child-care
1-44 facility, including any requirements regarding staff-to-child
1-45 ratios, staff certification, background checks, physical
1-46 accommodations, or building or fire codes; and

1-47 (2) any group, building, or facility associated with
1-48 or used by a learning pod is exempt from any ordinance, rule,
1-49 regulation, policy, or guideline adopted by a local governmental
1-50 entity that would not apply to the group, building, or facility if
1-51 it was not associated with or used by a learning pod.

1-52 (b) An employee, contractor, or agent of a school district
1-53 or other local governmental entity may not initiate or conduct a
1-54 site inspection of, investigation of, or visit to a location in
1-55 which a learning pod meets if the district or entity would not have
1-56 initiated or conducted the inspection, investigation, or visit if
1-57 the learning pod did not meet at that location.

1-58 (c) A school district may not take action against, deny any
1-59 benefit to, discriminate in any manner against, or otherwise
1-60 distinguish any child or child's parent on the basis of the child's

2-1 participation in a learning pod.

2-2 (d) A school district or other local governmental entity may
2-3 not require:

2-4 (1) a learning pod to be registered with the district
2-5 or entity; or

2-6 (2) a person participating in a learning pod to report
2-7 to the district or entity information regarding the learning pod's
2-8 existence or operation.

2-9 (e) This section may not be construed to alter or affect:

2-10 (1) a parent's right to choose a home-school setting
2-11 for the parent's child; or

2-12 (2) the regulation of a child-care facility.

2-13 SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act or its application
2-14 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does
2-15 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be
2-16 given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to
2-17 this end the provisions of this Act are declared to be severable.

2-18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-22 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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