



California Child Welfare Council

2015 Chaptered Bills

Listed below are the child welfare and community care licensing bills that passed the Legislature and were signed by the Governor in 2015. To obtain the text, status, history, or analyses of any bill listed below, go to <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml> and use the Bill Information button to locate the bill.

2015 Child Welfare Chaptered Bill Summaries

AB 224 Pupils: educational liaison for foster children: notice of educational rights of foster children.
Jones-Sawyer (DEM)

Summary: This bill would require the State Department of Education, in consultation with the California Foster Youth Education Task Force, to develop a standardized notice of the education rights of foster children and post the notice on its Internet Web site. A notice prepared for use by foster children shall be developed in consultation with the California Department of Social Services Office of the State Foster Care Ombudsman, and will include, to the greatest extent practicable, their rights as minors and nonminors in foster care.

Sponsor: Public Counsel

AB 260 Foster care: parenting youth.
Lopez (DEM)

Summary: This bill would declare that a child whose parent has been adjudged a dependent child of the court shall not be considered at risk of abuse or neglect solely on the basis of information concerning the parent's placement history, behaviors, health or mental health diagnoses, or any other circumstances, occurring prior to the birth of the child.

The bill would prohibit dependency court records concerning a minor dependent parent or a nonminor dependent parent from being admitted as evidence in the child's dependency proceedings unless a court order determines the case files to be materially relevant.

This bill would require specified foster care placements to help support the preservation of the family unit by referring dependent parents to existing preventive services to address any concerns regarding the safety, health, or well-being of the child, and to prevent, whenever possible, the filing of a petition to declare the child a dependent of the juvenile court.

Sponsor: CA Youth Connection

AB 294 Health and human services: state plans: federal waivers: public notice.
Lackey (REP)

Summary: This bill mandates any department within the California Health and Human Services Agency to post on the home page of the department's website a hyperlink to any approved operational state plan or federal waiver.

Sponsor: Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations

AB 379 Foster youth: homeless children or youth: complaint of noncompliance: exemption from local graduation requirements.

Gordon (DEM)

Summary: This bill would allow complaints of noncompliance addressing specified educational rights of foster and homeless youth to be filed pursuant to the California Department of Education Uniform Complaint Procedure and would allow for an appeal to the Department of Education if the complainant is unsatisfied with the decision of the local educational agency (LEA). This bill would require the LEA to provide a remedy to the affected pupil if the complaint has been found to have merit.

Sponsor: Alliance for Children's Rights

AB 403 Public social services: foster care placement: funding.

Mark Stone (DEM)

Summary: This bill would implement the Administration-sponsored Continuum of Care Reform initiative to provide all children and youth in foster care permanent home placements with committed, nurturing families rather than in long-term congregate care settings. In addition, this bill would provide children and youth in foster care with individualized services and supports to ensure they maintain a stable placement with a foster family or relative, expediting discharge from foster care. Also, this bill would create short-term residential treatment centers designed for children and youth who cannot live safely in a family to receive limited-duration, intensive treatment prior to transitioning to home-based family care. This bill seeks to reduce the time children spend in foster care, particularly in high-cost congregate care settings and increase the number of children and youth in foster care who grow and mature into healthy, productive adults.

Sponsor: California Department of Social Services

AB 592 Juveniles: proof of dependency or wardship.

Mark Stone (DEM)

Summary: This bill would authorize the California Department of Social Services to provide to a person who was previously adjudged a dependent or ward of the juvenile court and placed in foster care, upon request by that person, the proof of dependency or wardship document, as specified, or any information necessary to provide verification that the person was formerly a dependent or ward of the juvenile court and placed in foster care.

Sponsors: Children Now, John Burton Foundation

AB 854 Educational services: pupils in foster care.

Weber (DEM)

Summary: This bill would restructure Foster Youth Services (FYS) program requirements to align with the Local Control Funding Formula and associated responsibilities of school districts to directly provide and coordinate services to foster youth. It would rename the FYS program as the Foster Youth Services Coordinating (FYSC) program and would establish a State Foster Youth Services Coordinator in the California Department of Education. The FYSC program would provide supplemental funding to county offices of education to address the educational needs of students in foster care and to ensure positive educational outcomes. In aligning this FYSC with the LCFF, this urgency measure implements the allocation made for this purpose in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget Act to fund expanded foster youth experiences.

Sponsor: National Center for Youth Law

AB 879 Juveniles: court proceedings: notice.

Burke (DEM)

Summary: This bill would, until January 1, 2019, generally allow service for the above purposes to be made by electronic mail if the county, or city and county, and the court choose to permit service by electronic

mail and the person to be served has consented to service by electronic mail by signing a specified form.
Sponsors: County Welfare Directors Association of California, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

AB 924 Personal income tax: voluntary contributions: State Children's Trust Fund.

Cooley (DEM)

Summary: This bill would reinstate the State Children's Trust Fund (SCTF) as a voluntary contribution fund on the California tax forms, subject to space availability, which allows individual taxpayers to contribute funds via their personal tax forms to support child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs. The SCTF voluntary contribution fund would be subject to minimum donation requirements to stay on the tax form, and has a sunset clause in five years time.

Sponsor: Child Abuse Prevention Center

AB 989 Juveniles: sealing of records.

Cooper (DEM)

Summary: This bill would clarify that probation departments, courts, certain attorneys, certain local agencies, and the California Department of Social Services, have limited access to sealed juvenile records, as specified, and would provide for protections of the information.

Sponsor: Chief Probation Officers of California

AB 1049 Parent and child relationship.

Patterson (REP)

Summary: This bill would make new requirements and provisions pertaining to the termination of paternity rights. In addition this bill would amend definitions pertaining to surrogacy and donor facilitators.

Sponsor: Author

AB 1058 Pupil safety: child abuse prevention: training.

Baker (REP)

Summary: This bill would require the California Department of Education , in consultation with the California Department of Social Services' Office of Child Abuse Prevention, to establish best practices for school personnel to prevent abuse, including sexual abuse, on school grounds by school personnel, or in school-sponsored programs and to post links to existing training resources on its website. This bill would also encourage various specified local education entities to participate in training on the prevention of abuse, including sexual abuse, of children on school grounds by school personnel or in school-sponsored programs and encourage them to provide that training at least once every three years to all school employees.

Sponsor: Author

AB 1166 Pupils in foster care: pupils who are homeless children or youth: school transfer: exemption from local graduation requirements.

Bloom (DEM)

Summary: This bill would amend requirements and provisions of existing law pertaining to local graduation exemptions for homeless children or youth.

Sponsor: Author

AB 1207 Mandated child abuse reporting: child day care personnel: training.

Lopez (DEM)

Summary: This bill would require the California Department of Social Services to provide information and online training regarding child abuse and neglect, and mandated reporter duties under existing state law, to administrators, providers, and employees of licensed child day care facilities. Starting January 1, 2018, the bill would also require current and prospective providers, administrators, and employees of child day care

facilities to complete mandated reporter training within a specified time and renew it every two years. The bill makes the information and training subject to the requirements of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act, and provides an exemption for certain limited English proficiency providers if training is not offered in their primary language.

Sponsor: Child Care Law Center

SB 68 Minor or nonminor dependent parents: reunification services.

Liu (DEM)

Summary: This bill allows for an additional six months of reunification services in dependency cases where the parent is a minor parent or a nonminor dependent parent, in consideration of the special circumstances facing these parents due to their age or dependent status, but only in cases where the parent is making significant and consistent progress towards establishing a safe home for the child.

Sponsor: LA Dependency Lawyers, Inc.

SB 238 Foster care: psychotropic medication.

Mitchell (DEM)

Summary: This bill would require the California Department of Social Services and the Department of Health Care Services to develop an optional county participation data sharing agreement that enables counties to receive county-specific data reports that describe each child in that county who has one or more psychotropic medications that has been paid for under Medi-Cal. It would require the Judicial Council to amend and adopt rules of court and develop forms to help judges determine to either authorize or deny prescriptions for psychotropic medication for youth in foster care. It would require that training for administrator certification, foster parents, relative and nonrelative caregivers, public health nurses, appointed child counsel, and mandated child reporters be expanded to include psychotropic medications, trauma, and substance use disorder and mental health treatments.

Sponsors: County Welfare Directors Association of California, National Center for Youth Law

SB 252 Pupils: diploma alternatives: fees.

Leno (DEM)

Summary: This bill would prohibit the Department of Education from charging the fee for an examination application to a homeless child or youth who can verify his or her status as a homeless youth. The bill would authorize a homeless services provider, as defined, that has knowledge of the person's housing status to verify the person's status for purposes of these provisions.

This bill would prohibit a scoring contractor or testing center that charges its own separate fee from charging that separate fee to an examinee who can verify his or her status as a homeless child or youth. The bill would authorize a homeless services provider, as defined, that has knowledge of the person's housing status to verify the person's status for purposes of these provisions.

Sponsors: CA Coalition for Youth, Housing CA, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

SB 319 Child welfare services: public health nursing.

Summary: This bill would expand the duties and responsibilities of foster care public health nurses (PHNs) by allowing them the same access to medical records for children and youth in foster care as social workers, probation officers, foster parents, and caregivers. PHNs would be allowed to monitor and oversee psychotropic medication procedures as part of their medical care planning and coordination duties and would be permitted to help nonminor dependents who are in foster care make informed decisions about their health care.

Sponsor: National Center for Youth Law

SB 478 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act: mandated reporters: pilot program.

Huff (REP)

Summary: This bill would authorize, until January 1, 2021, up to ten county welfare agencies to develop a pilot program for Internet-based reporting of child abuse and neglect for specified categories of mandated reporters. The bill would also require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to consult with the County Welfare Directors Association of California and interested county welfare agencies to determine which counties may be involved in the pilot program; require CDSS to oversee and administer the pilot program through written directives; authorize CDSS to conclude the pilot programs on a county- by-county basis if the safety of children is being compromised; require participating counties to hire an evaluator to monitor the implementation of the program in accordance with CDSS' directives; and require participating counties to report to the Senate and Assembly Committees on Human Services certain outcome measures.
Sponsor: County Welfare Directors Association of California

SB 484 Juveniles.

Beall (DEM)

Summary: This bill would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the Department of Health Care Services to develop a methodology to identify group homes that have levels of psychotropic medication use by children and youth in foster care that warrant additional review and requires CDSS to inspect identified facilities at least once a year. Additionally, this bill would require CDSS to compile specified information related to the use of psychotropic medications in group homes and to annually post on its web site a statewide summary of the de-identified and aggregate information. Further, this bill would specify the manner in which a group home must maintain the medical record of a child residing in the facility when administering psychotropic medications, requiring a copy of the court order authorizing the medication to be included as well as a separate log for each psychotropic medication prescribed.
Sponsor: National Center for Youth Law

SB 731 Foster children: housing: gender identity.

Leno (DEM)

Summary: This bill would require minor and nonminor dependents in out-of-home foster care to be placed according to their gender identity, regardless of the gender or sex listed in their court or child welfare records, and would require the Community Care Licensing Division of the California Department of Social Services to promulgate regulations to implement this requirement. This bill would also require this provision be added to the Foster Care Bill of Rights.
Sponsors: Equality California, National Center for Lesbian Rights

SB 794 Child welfare services.

Committee on Human Services

Summary: This bill would bring California into compliance with H .R. 4980/Public Law 113-183, "Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act," which addresses: the identification, documentation, and determination of services for those youth receiving child welfare services who are, or are at-risk of becoming, victims of sex trafficking; the development and implementation of protocols to expeditiously locate runaway youth in foster care; requirements and training in reasonable and prudent parent standards; implementing adoption incentives and reinvestments of potential savings; relative notifications; data on pregnant minors and nonminor dependents; successor guardianships; the limits of another planned permanent living arrangement; and successful adulthood for foster youth.
Sponsor: Author

2015 Community Care Licensing Chaptered Bill Summaries

AB 601 Residential care facilities for the elderly: licensing and regulation.

Eggman (DEM)

Summary: This bill would increase disclosures of information from applicants seeking a license to operate a residential care facility for the elderly to include information related to ownership, investors, prior applicant experience, and prior record of regulatory compliance, including disciplinary actions. This bill would also require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to cross-check specified information with the California Department of Public Health and would require CDSS to post, to the extent the Department's computer system can electronically accommodate, specified information on the CDSS website.

Sponsor: California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

AB 762 Day care centers: toddler programs.

Mullin (DEM)

Summary: Existing child care licensing statutes permit a special toddler program component for children between the ages of 18 months and 30 months, with exceptions extending to three years of age with written permission from parents. Because Head Start programs serve children between three years of age until they enter kindergarten, there is a child care service gap for children between 30 months and three years of age. This bill would resolve this issue and allow licensed child day care centers to increase the age limit for the toddler program from 30 months to three years of age.

Sponsor: California Head Start Association

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Lopez (DEM)

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Sponsor: Child Care Law Center

AB 1387 Care facilities: civil penalties, deficiencies, and appeal procedures.

Chu (DEM)

Summary: This bill revises the civil penalty appeal procedures for violations that result in the death, serious bodily injury or physical abuse of persons in community care and child day care facilities. This bill establishes a civil penalty review and appeals process for all other specified violations. This bill would enhance the current process for complaints specific to residential care facilities for the elderly, and would require the California Department of Social Services to give priority to a right of access complaint filed by a long-term care ombudsman. Further, the bill removes a duplicative provision requiring the Child Health and Safety Fund be used to provide placement assistance to families with children who attend a day care center whose license is revoked or suspended.

Sponsor: Author

SB 238 Foster care: psychotropic medication.

Mitchell (DEM)

Summary: This bill would require the California Department of Social Services and the Department of Health Care Services to develop an optional county participation data sharing agreement that enables

counties to receive county-specific data reports that describe each child in that county who has one or more psychotropic medications that has been paid for under Medi-Cal. It would require the Judicial Council to amend and adopt rules of court and develop forms to help judges determine to either authorize or deny prescriptions for psychotropic medication for youth in foster care. It would require that training for administrator certification, foster parents, relative and nonrelative caregivers, public health nurses, appointed child counsel, and mandated child reporters be expanded to include psychotropic medications, trauma, and substance use disorder and mental health treatments.

Sponsors: County Welfare Directors Association of California, National Center for Youth Law

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Sponsors: Equality California, National Center for Lesbian Rights

SB 792 Day care facilities: immunizations: exemptions.

Mendoza (DEM)

Summary: This bill would require, after September 1, 2016, that an adult who wishes to be employed in, or volunteer in, child care centers or family child care homes licensed by the California Department of Social Services would have to be immunized against measles and pertussis, and optionally influenza. The bill also would require a tuberculosis clearance or a certificate stating the individual is free from tuberculosis. Exemptions from vaccination would be allowed when the employee or volunteer submits a written statement from a licensed physician declaring the immunization is not safe because of the individual's physical condition or medical circumstances, or that he or she has evidence of current immunity. Exemption from the influenza vaccination may be obtained if the individual submits a written declaration that he or she has declined the influenza vaccination.

Sponsor: Health Officers Association of California