

California Foster Care Legislation Resource Materials

Section Table of Contents

- California Foster Care Legislation

Page 2



California Foster Care Legislation

Youth Transition Action Teams Initiative

Leveraging Community Resources to Ensure
Successful Transitions for Foster Youth

California Foster Care Legislation

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Addressing the needs of foster youth through legislation has been an important avenue for advocates working to improve transition outcomes for current and former foster youth. This document presents brief descriptions of bills passed into law that address specific needs in housing, permanency, education, and career development. The following bills also articulate the need for foster youth to participate in their plans and to receive the same benefits available to other citizens not in foster care. The sources of information for most of the descriptions are end noted. In many cases, these sources provide additional information.

NOTE: Some bills are listed under multiple categories.

Infrastructure, Accountability, and Funding

These bills address the need to provide systems of care, either by establishing systems or by clarifying responsibilities, funding sources, or connections among systems.

SB 14 Public System of Statewide Child Welfare Services (Chapter 978, Statutes of 1982)¹

SB 14 requires the state, through the California Department of Social Services and county welfare departments, to establish and support a public system of statewide Child Welfare Services. Each county welfare department is required to maintain four specialized components: Emergency Response, Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, and Permanent Placement.

SB 370 Foster Care Group Home Rate Structure (Chapter 1294, Statutes of 1989)¹

SB 370 establishes the Foster Care Group Home Rate structure and authorizes the automated Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS).

AB 948 County Share of Cost for Foster Care (Chapter 91, Statutes of 1991)¹

AB 948 increases the county share of cost for foster care and child welfare services to increase fiscal incentives to avoid or limit expensive foster care placements.

(Infrastructure, Accountability, and Funding bills continued on page 2)

Infrastructure, Accountability, and Funding, continued

AB 1741 Pilot for Blending of Children's Services Funds (Chapter 951, Statutes of 1993)³

AB 1741 requires the coordinator to establish a 5-year pilot program for the blending of various children's services funds allocated to designated participating counties. Participating counties are required to transfer all funds provided to counties for specified child welfare services in the county's strategic plan into a county child and family services fund, for use in providing specified child and family services under the pilot program. AB 1741 also authorizes local education agencies, cities, or private nonprofit agencies to transfer funds to the county child and family services fund for services for children and families.

SB 2030 Evaluation of CDSS Workload and Budgeting (Chapter 785, Statutes of 1998)¹

SB 2030 requires the California Department of Social Services to evaluate workload and budgeting methodologies to understand the routine child welfare staff activities, the time needed to complete mandated services, and the estimated time needed for what is considered to be best practice in child welfare.

SB 163 Pilot Program for Wrap-Around Services (Chapter 795, Statutes of 1998)¹

SB 163 allows counties to participate in a pilot program providing intensive wrap-around services to families and children in or at risk of high level group care to reduce the need for placement.

AB 333 Confidential Discussions (Chapter 675, Statutes of 2001)^{3,7}

AB 333 requires that monthly visits by probation officer/social worker with children in group homes include private, confidential discussions.

AB 899 Consolidation of Foster Children Rights (Chapter 683, Statutes of 2001)^{1,2,7}

AB 899 consolidates all of the rights of foster children into a common location in California law. It also requires social workers to inform youth of their rights at least once every six months, and it requires the list of rights to be posted in facilities that care for six or more foster children.

SB 940 Termination of Parental rights (Chapter 830, Statutes of 2001)⁴

SB 940 requires local probation departments to pursue termination of parental rights and adoption in any case in which a child adjudicated as a delinquent has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months.

AB 458 Fair and Equal Treatment (Chapter 331, Statutes of 2003)⁷

AB 458 adds to foster child's rights the right to fair and equal treatment and access to services and freedom from discrimination or harassment regardless of perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.

(Infrastructure, Accountability, and Funding bills continued on page 3)

Infrastructure, Accountability, and Funding, continued

AB 1413 Delayed Birth Registration: Dependent Children (Chapter 315, Statutes of 2003)^{3, 7}

AB 1413 requires expedited processing of delayed birth certificates when the application for the birth certificate is for a child under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court pursuant to WIC 300.

SB 1612 Matching Federal Funds (Chapter 845, Statutes of 2004)⁵

Existing law establishes the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program, under which counties provide payments to foster care providers, including foster family homes, on behalf of qualified children in foster care. The program is funded by a combination of federal, state, and county funds, with moneys from the General Fund being continuously appropriated to pay for the state's share of AFDC-FC costs. This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to amend the foster care state plan required under federal law, to authorize counties that elect to subsidize child care for foster parents to use federal foster care matching funds for the purpose of subsidizing that child care. The bill requires counties electing to administer the Foster Parent Child Care Program to follow guidelines developed by the department. The bill also requires the federal funds to match only county funds.

AB 1453 Residentially Based Services (Chapter 466, Statutes of 2007)⁸

AB 1453 calls for the development and testing of a plan to transform the current system of group care for foster children and for children with serious emotional disorders into a system of residentially-based services (RBS) that is focused on improving outcomes.

SB 39 Child Abuse and Neglect (Chapter 468, Statutes of 2007)⁸

SB 39 allows the public release of specified portions of juvenile case files of any child who has suffered a fatality as the result of substantiated abuse or neglect.

System Improvement

These bills address the need to address problems and shortcomings in current foster care systems in California by establishing entities charged with investigating problems, proposing changes, and assisting county child welfare agencies in meeting required outcomes.

SB 933 State Foster Care Ombudsman (Chapter 311, Statutes of 1998)^{1, 2}

SB 933 enacts group home reforms and establishes the Foster Care Ombudsman program to provide a way to resolve issues.

AB 1740 Child Welfare Stakeholders Group (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2000)¹

AB 1740 establishes the Child Welfare Services Stakeholders Group to examine current child welfare programs and propose a redesigned system by June 2003.

AB 636 Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act of 2001 (Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001)¹

AB 636 establishes a statewide Child and Family Services Review system to review county systems and assist them in meeting outcomes, which are to be consistent with those measured by the federal Child and Family Service Reviews.

(System Improvement bills continued on page 4)

System Improvement, continued

AB 2294 Term of Appointment for State Foster Care Ombudsperson (Chapter 1160, Statutes of 2002)

AB 2294 provides that the Office of State Foster Care Ombudsperson for foster care shall be appointed for a term of 4 years, and permits the director of the State Department of Social Services to reappoint the Ombudsperson for consecutive terms.

AB 1633 Foster Children: Social Security Assistance: High School (Chapter 641, Statutes of 2005)

AB 1633 requires the California Department of Social Services to convene a workgroup to develop best practice guidelines for county welfare departments to assist children residing in the state's or a county's custody who are eligible for social security benefits and supplemental security income benefits. AB 1633 also expands existing law to allow 18-year-old foster youth to remain in their foster home until age 19 while they are in the process of completing their high school equivalency certificate.

AB 340 Resource Family Pilot Program (Chapter 464, Statutes of 2007)⁸

AB 340 creates the Resource Family Pilot Program to establish a unified approval process for foster family homes, foster care providers and adoptive families. This program will streamline applications and reduce the duplicative process that foster and adoptive families must complete before foster youth can be placed in a safe, permanent home.

SB 518 Youth Bill of Rights (Chapter 649, Statutes of 2007)²

SB 518 enacts a youth bill of rights for incarcerated youth (including foster youth) that provides 17 specific rights and requires the Division of Juvenile Facilities (DJF) provide each youth with an orientation concerning their rights. This legislation also requires the DJF Office of the Ombudsman to disseminate information on these rights to DJF facilities.

Cross System Collaboration and Information Sharing

This bill addresses the need to share information about individual youth among different systems serving the same youth by establishing protocols.

AB 129 Juvenile Court: Dual Status Children (Chapter 468, Statutes of 2004)⁷

AB 129 allows counties to create a protocol between the county probation department and child welfare services to serve youth who have cases in both locations.

AB 2216 Child Welfare leadership (Chapter 384, Statutes of 2006)⁸

AB 2216 establishes a California Child Welfare Council, within the Health and Human Services Agency, to increase collaboration among agencies and courts that serve foster youth, improve coordination of services, better support the restructuring of child welfare services, and continue to improve outcomes of children and youth in foster care.

AB 1512 Medi-Cal (Chapter 467, Statutes of 2007)⁸

AB 1512 creates an expedited process to ensure the continued provision of health benefits when foster youth are transferred from a county organized health system to an out-of-county placement.

Family and Sibling Connections

These bills address the need to support connections among family members by establishing certain rights for children and youth in foster care and by assigning responsibility for upholding those rights.

SB 243 Preservation of the Family (Chapter 1485, Statutes of 1987)¹

SB 243 makes termination of parental rights and removal from the home dependent on danger to the child, narrows the definition of physical abuse, establishes preservation of the family as the primary system goal, and restates the priority for relative placement over non-relative foster care for children.

AB 3364 California Family Preservation and Family Support Program (Chapter 961, Statutes of 1994)¹

AB 3364 establishes the California Family Preservation and Family Support Program consistent with federal requirements.

AB 2196 Post Adoption Contact with Siblings (Chapter 1072, Statutes of 1997)²

AB 2196 requires the social worker to include a discussion of sibling visitation and contact in a child's case plan when a child is going to be adopted. The bill also authorizes the court to include in an adoption order provisions that will facilitate sibling contact as long as the adoptive parents do not object.

AB 2773 California Implementation of Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (Chapter 1056, Statutes of 1998)¹

AB 2773 implements the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act in California that includes shortened timeframes for reunification.

AB 1987 Sibling Relationships (Chapter 909, Statutes of 2000)²

AB 1987 requires social workers to include in court reports a section on the child's sibling relationships and the plans for visitation of siblings. It also requires social workers to notify children on their caseload of significant events in the lives of siblings.

AB 705 Sibling Placement (Chapter 747, Statutes of 2001)^{3, 7}

AB 705 requires that siblings be placed together and various other changes relative to the procedure for placing siblings.

AB 579 Dependent Children: Notice to Siblings (Chapter 558, Statutes of 2003)^{3, 7}

AB 579 requires a social worker/probation officer/court clerk to provide hearing notices to a youth's siblings who are 10 years old or older.

SB 1178 Teen Parents in Foster Care (Chapter 841, Statutes of 2004)^{3, 7}

SB 1178 requires child welfare agencies to support whole-family placements for dependent youth and their children.

(Family and Sibling Connections bills continued on page 6)

Family and Sibling Connections, continued

AB 519 Parental Rights (Chapter 634, Statutes of 2005)³

AB 519 allows foster youth to emancipate from the foster care system with the child's legal parentage intact and a connection to a family and therefore reinstates the child's right to inheritance, social security, and other survivor benefits.

SB 436 Foster Care: Transitional Housing (Chapter 629, Statutes of 2005)

SB 436 provides a safety net for pregnant and parenting foster teens and increases the amount of housing available for them.

SB 500 AFDC-FC: Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth (Chapter 630, Statutes of 2005)

SB 500 keeps teenage mothers in foster care united with their babies by providing placement in a whole family foster home where teen parents develop the skills necessary to provide a safe, stable, and permanent home for their children. SB 500 mandates that full foster care payment be paid for both the teen parent and their child and provides an additional \$200 a month in support for the child.

AB 2488 Foster Youth Sibling Connections (Chapter 386, Statutes of 2006)⁸

AB 2488 makes it easier for children and youth in foster care to get in touch with siblings by providing intermediaries to facilitate contact between siblings and lowering the age for siblings separated by adoption to consent to have their contact information shared with one another.

AB 2195 Placement with Relatives (Chapter 383, Statutes of 2006)⁸

AB 2195 facilitates the expeditious and safe placement of foster youth with relatives and other family members when their primary foster caregiver suddenly becomes unavailable to provide care by establishing standards and procedures for counties to assess and approve relative providers on an emergency basis.

AB 298 Relative caregivers (Chapter 565, Statutes of 2007)²

AB 298 provides relative caregivers preference for legal guardianship over adoption and cannot constitute the sole basis for a social service or licensed county adoption agency to recommend removal of a youth from a relative caregiver for the purposes of adoption and that a relative caregiver be given information regarding permanency options.

SB 720 Joint Placement of Children and their Parent (Chapter 475, Statutes of 2007)²

SB 720 makes clarifying changes to state law to encourage the joint placement of children and their parent when both are in foster care.

Kinship Support

These bills address the need to support relatives who are caring for children by clarifying legal definitions of kinship care (kincare), establishing support services for kincare, and providing guidelines for monitoring kincare.

(Kinship Support bills continued on page 7)

Kinship Support, continued

AB 1193 Kinship Support Services Program (Chapter 794, Statutes of 1997)¹

AB 1193 establishes the Kinship Support Services Program to provide community-based support for relatives caring for children placed in their homes by the juvenile court or children who are at risk of abuse, neglect, or delinquency.

AB 1544 Concurrent Planning (Chapter 793, Statutes of 1997)¹

AB 1544 mandates “concurrent planning” and makes specific changes in the law designed to increase the likelihood that foster children unable to reunify with their birth parents achieve permanency with relatives.

SB 1901 Kinship guardianship Assistance Payment Program (Chapter 1055, Statutes of 1998)¹

SB 1901 establishes the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (Kin-GAP) to provide a subsidy for children placed in legal guardianship with a relative.

AB 1695 Clarification of Evaluation of Foster Care Providers (Chapter 653, Statutes of 2001)⁴

AB 1695 clarifies that relative and non-relative foster care providers are to be evaluated according to the same standards.

Foster Youth Quality of Life Issues, Extracurricular Activities, and Normalcy

These bills address the need to support normal child and youth development by facilitating participation in age appropriate activities and by assigning responsibility for supporting that participation.

AB 2691 Driver’s Licenses (Chapter 865, Statutes of 1992)²

AB 2691 allows someone other than a youth’s parents or guardians to sign the youth’s application for a driver’s license. Probation officers and social workers can sign a driver’s license application without liability for any accidents or tickets the youth may incur. Any other person who signs the application will be jointly liable with the youth for any damages resulting from the negligent or wrongful act of the youth in driving a motor vehicle. (Quality of Life Issue bills continued on page 6)

AB 1261 Increase of Savings Limits (Chapter 686, Statutes of 2001)⁴

AB 1261 increases the amount of savings that foster youth participating in transitional living services may retain.

(Foster Youth Quality of Life Issues, Extracurricular Activities, and Normalcy bills continued on page 8)

Foster Youth Quality of Life Issues, Extracurricular Activities, and Normalcy, continued**AB 408 Prudent Parent and Check for Important People (Chapter 813, Statutes of 2003)⁷**

AB 408 identifies and supports permanent connections and maintaining foster youth normalcy and involvement in extracurricular activities. AB 408 requires caregivers to use a prudent parent standard to determine whether to grant permission for the child to participate in any particular activity. It mandates that all children in foster care have access to age and developmentally appropriate extra curricular, enrichment, and social activities. In addition, it requires the social worker to ask youth who are older than 10 and have lived in group care for more than six months about people important to the dependent youth. The social study, evaluation, or supplemental report used by the court shall also include a discussion of whether the child has relationships with individuals other than the child's siblings that are important to the child.

AB 2985 Protecting Foster Youth from Identity Theft (Chapter 387, Statutes of 2006)⁸

AB 2985 protects youth in foster care from identity theft by requiring county welfare departments to request credit checks for foster youth who are 16 or older, and providing referrals to credit counseling organizations if the credit check discloses any negative information.

AB 2480 Appellate Representation for Foster Youth (Chapter 385, Statutes of 2006)⁸

AB 2480 ensures children and youth have access to an attorney during dependency proceedings at the appellate level. This will ensure consistent legal representation by an attorney in the dependency system.

AB 402 Property Taxation: Change in Ownership (Chapter 450, Statutes of 2007)⁸

AB 402 amends the inter-familial exemptions for property transfers and allows foster parents to transfer their property to current or former foster youth without the value of the property being reassessed for property tax purposes.

Permanence

These bills address the need to support the presence of at least one caring adult in each young person's life by establishing procedures for gathering information about important relationships with people other than siblings and including that information in reports already required.

AB 408 Prudent Parent and Check for Important People (Chapter 813, Statutes of 2003)⁷

AB 408 requires caregivers to use a prudent parent standard to determine whether to grant permission for the child to participate in any particular activity. It mandates that all children in foster care have access to age and developmentally appropriate extra curricular, enrichment, and social activities. In addition, it requires the social worker to ask youth who are older than 10 and have lived in group care for more than six months about people important to the dependent youth. The social study, evaluation, or supplemental report used by the court shall also include a discussion of whether the child has relationships with individuals other than the child's siblings that are important to the child.

(Permanence bills continued on page 9)

Permanence, continued

SB 591 Willingness of Caregiver to provide Legal Permanency (Chapter 812, Statutes of 2003)⁷

SB 591 requires that the study or evaluation, and the information received in evidence by the court, include the willingness of the caregiver to provide legal permanency for the child if reunification is unsuccessful.

AB 1412 Permanency for All Foster Youth (Chapter 640, Statutes of 2005)²

AB 1412 expands AB 408 by requiring social workers to ask foster youth in every type of placement about adult relationships that are important to them, take actions to support and maintain those relationships, and explore them as potential permanency options. Additionally, social workers are required to allow youth to be involved in their case plan, particularly their permanency plan, as soon as youth enter foster care. Youth are also to be involved in convening a team of adults that focuses on achieving and maintaining permanence.

SB 218 Termination of Parental rights: Prospective Adoptive Parents (Chapter 626, Statutes of 2005)

SB 218 establishes "prospective adoptive parent" designation and prohibits the removal of a child from the home of a foster parent so designated unless properly noticed. The bill creates an exception to an adoption agency's exclusive care and control of a child for purposes of adoption by allowing the juvenile court to designate a current caretaker as a prospective adoptive parent of a child who is a dependent of the juvenile court.

AB 1979 Promoting Mentorship (Chapter 382, Statutes of 2006)⁸

AB 1979 eliminates barriers for foster youth to make meaningful and lifelong connections with a mentor by waiving the fees for criminal background checks for mentors, thereby encouraging more Californians to become mentors.

SB 1641 Promoting Family – Like Environments for Foster Children (Chapter 388, Statutes of 2006)⁸

SB 1641 seeks to ensure that children and youth in foster care live in family environments by encouraging that youth be placed in the most family-like setting possible and requiring the Department of Social Services to report on efforts to modify state licensing regulations consistent with the bill's goal.

Transitional Housing

These bills address the need to support successful transitions to adulthood by providing housing—and access to other needed supports—during the transition and initial emancipation years.

(Transitional Housing continued on page 10)

Transitional Housing, continued

AB 1198 Transitional Housing Program (Chapter 799, Statutes of 1993)²

AB 1198 creates the “in-care” transitional housing option for foster youth 17 years of age or older and in their last year of high school. The program is called the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) and further modifications were made to THPP in 2001 (see AB 427, Statutes of 2001, below). Counties can offer THPP as a type of placement for certain youth who meet eligibility requirements. Youth live in apartments or houses with close monitoring and supervision from the county or from a private agency. This affords youth the opportunity to practice living on their own while social worker services are still available to them.

AB 427 Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund (Chapter 125, Statutes of 2001)^{1, 2, 5}

AB 427 provides funding for housing and services for emancipated foster youth through age 20. AB 427 creates the Supportive Transitional Emancipation Program (STEP), which allows counties to provide monthly financial support to emancipated foster youth as long as they are attending school or working towards the goals outlined in their Transitional Independent Living Plans. AB 427 also makes changes to the state’s Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) for community care facilities participating in transitional housing programs, and includes those certified facilities within the scope of transitional housing facilities. These changes encourage providers to create or expand housing programs for current and former foster youth.

AB 1119 Transitional Housing Placement Services (Chapter 639, Statutes of 2001)^{3, 5}

AB 1119 authorizes foster youth in AFDC-FC or Kin-GAP who are emancipated and not expected to complete their educational or training program before their 19th birthday, to continue receiving aid following their 18th birthday and emancipation, as long as s/he resides in foster care or Kin-GAP, remains otherwise eligible for AFDC-FC or Kin-GAP or is working at least 10 hours/week and continues attending an educational, vocational or technical training program.

AB 824 AFDC-FC benefits: Transitional Housing (Chapter 636, Statutes of 2005)³

AB 824 stabilizes housing needs for youth exiting the foster care program by offering transitional assistance up to age 24.

SB 436 Foster Care: Transitional Housing (Chapter 629, Statutes of 2005)

SB 436 provides a safety net for pregnant and parenting foster teens and increases the amount of housing available for them.

Other Transitional Support Programs

These bills address the need to improve youth in foster care’s transitions to adulthood by establishing pilot programs to develop new models and by clarifying existing transition programs.

SB 841 Pilot Project for Early Start to Emancipation (Chapter 694, Statutes of 2001)⁴

SB 841 provides State funding for an Early Start to Emancipation pilot project to be implemented in 3 counties statewide.

(Other Transitional Support Programs continued on page 11)

Other Transitional Support Programs, continued

AB 1979 Improving the Independent Living Program (Chapter 271, Statutes of 2002)²

AB 1979 creates statewide regulations for the Independent Living Program.

HR 2669 College Cost Reduction and Access Act (2007)⁸

HR 2669, the bill that includes the Fostering Adoption to Further Student Achievement Act amendment, makes it possible for teens in foster care to be adopted without losing access to college financial aid. Under this new law, youth who are adopted after their 13th birthday will not have to include their parents' income in the calculations for determining their need for financial aid.

Extension of Support Services

These bills address the need to support successful transitions to adulthood by providing housing—and access to other needed supports—during the transition and initial emancipation years.

AB 2877 Medi-Cal Eligibility (Chapter 93, Statutes of 2000)¹

AB 2877 makes emancipated foster youth categorically eligible for Medi-Cal. It eliminates the re-application process that emancipated youth previously had to go through in order to get health care. Youth now experience a seamless transition of their Medi-Cal services until they reach 21 years of age.

AB 1633 Foster Children: Social Security Assistance: High School (Chapter 641, Statutes of 2005)

AB 1633 requires the California Department of Social Services to convene a workgroup to develop best practice guidelines for county welfare departments to assist children residing in the state's or a county's custody who are eligible for social security benefits and supplemental security income benefits. AB 1633 also expands existing law to allow 18-year-old foster youth to remain in their foster home until age 19 while they are in the process of completing their high school equivalency certificate.

SB 1667 Parent Participation in Dependency Proceedings (Chapter 389, Statutes of 2006)⁸

SB 1667 makes it easier for foster parents to participate in dependency hearings by making sure they receive appropriate notices and forms, as well as information on how to provide input and recommendations to the court.

AB 1331 Federal Benefits (Chapter 465, Statutes of 2007)⁸

AB 1331 ensures foster youth with disabilities access to critical services that will support them in their transition to adulthood. It requires counties to screen foster youth between the age of 16 ½ and 17 ½ to determine their potential eligibility for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits and to make applications for those who may be eligible.

(Other Transitional Support Programs continued on page 12)

Extension of Support Services, continued

SB 785 Mental Health Services (Chapter 469, Statutes of 2007)⁸

SB 785 ensures access to mental health services for foster children who are placed outside of the original county of jurisdiction, including those being adopted or entering into a guardianship with a relative.

Education

These bills address the need to ensure that youth in foster care have and adequate support for their education as well as access to educational opportunities by clarifying rights, facilitating record transfers, and establishing support services.

AB 2463 Postsecondary Education: Outreach & Assistance for Emancipated Foster Youth (Chapter 1129, Statutes of 1996)

AB 2463 provides outreach, access, and retention services for foster youth interested in attending a California State University or community college.

SB 464 Invitation to Representative of a Group Home to Individualized Education Program Team Meetings (Chapter 413, Statutes of 2003)⁵

SB 464 requires a school district, special education local plan area, or county office of education to invite to the individualized education program team meetings a representative of the group home in those cases in which a pupil with exceptional needs has been placed in a group home by a juvenile court, as specified. To the extent local educational agencies would be required to perform additional duties, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

AB 490 Improving Foster Youth Education (Chapter 862, Statutes of 2003)²

AB 490 improves public school procedures so that foster youth have a better chance to succeed in school by requiring that youth are not forced to change schools unnecessarily, won't lose credits and can immediately enroll and quickly receive records at a new school. The bill also requires designation of a foster youth education liaison in each district.

AB 1261 Improving Foster Youth Educational Outcomes (Chapter 639, Statutes of 2005)³

AB 1261, which makes technical corrections to 2003 legislation, requires an organized process for school placements and requires that local educational agencies provide explanations regarding placements if they are disputed.

AB 1858 Quality Non-Public Schools for Foster Youth (Chapter 914, Statutes of 2004)²

AB 1858 sets standards and mandates oversight for group home schools. This bill also requires the State Department of Education to ensure that the California School Information Services' system meets the needs of pupils in foster care and includes disaggregated data on pupils in foster care.

(Education bills continued on page 13)

Education, continued

SB 1639 Education WORKS! Cal WORKS Recipients: Education and Training (Chapter 668, Statutes of 2004)³

SB 1639 supports foster youths' right to access information on higher education. SB 1639 encourages the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to disseminate information to foster care agencies regarding admissions requirements and financial aid.

The bill would also request the Regents of the University of California and the Trustees of the California State University to explore methods of using the admissions-by-exemption category to assist the transition of students in foster care into 4-year public institutions of higher education. SB 1639 also includes intensive English language immersion within the scope of California Community Colleges vocational curricula for CalWORKS! recipients.

Sources of Selected Listings

¹ *Understanding the Child Welfare System in California: A Primer for Service Providers and Policymakers*, Diane F. Reed and Kate Karplow. California Center for Research on Women & Families, 2002.

² California Youth Connection

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Past Legislative Accomplishments www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/section.php?id=19

³ California Bill information accessed through www.leginfo.ca.gov

AB 1741 www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/93-94/bill/asm/ab_1701-1750/ab_1741_bill_931011_chaptered

(Sources of Listings continued on page 10)

Sources of Selected Listings, continued

⁴ National Conference of State Legislatures State Legislative Report

2001 www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/slr275.htm or www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/welfareleg2001.PDF

2003 www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/cwlaws2003.htm

2004 www.ncsl.org/print/cyf/cwlegislation04.pdf

⁵ California Department of Education Government Affairs Chaptered K-12 Educational Legislation, by year between 1998 and 2005 www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/ga/

⁶ California Adolescent Health Collaborative Analysis of 2000-2001

www.co.mendocino.ca.us/ph/pdf/ANALYSIS.PDF

⁷ State of California – Health and Human Services Department of Social Services *Foster Care Legislation Implementation Status Report*

www.newwaystowork.org/documents/ytatdocuments/ImplementationStatusReport.pdf

⁸ Youth Training Project: Legislative Updates www.youthtrainingproject.org

Additional Sources

Children's Law Center of Los Angeles Training Materials on Federal law, California Law, Education Law, and Case Law and Appellate Developments

www.clcla.org/training.htm

County Welfare Directors Association of California Chaptered and Vetoed Legislation by year between 1999 and 2004

www.cwda.org/legislation_chaptered.cfm