

**Introduced by Senator Alpert**

February 23, 2001

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An act to add Section 16012 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 841, as introduced, Alpert. Foster care: Early Start to Emancipation programs.

Existing law makes provision for the placement of certain children in foster care, and provides for child welfare services, which are public social services directed toward, among other purposes, protecting and promoting the welfare of all children, including those in foster care placement.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to establish and implement, until January 1, 2005, a foster youth training institute to provide technical assistance and training to help counties that elect to establish Early Start to Emancipation programs similar to a program established in the County of Los Angeles that provides services to foster youth as they transition from middle school to high school.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) In 1996, the Early Start to Emancipation
- 2 Program was established in the County of Los Angeles as a means
- 3 of identifying foster youth as they transitioned from middle school
- 4 to high school who needed help to thrive during the high school

1 years. The program has four components: (1) outreach,  
2 assessment, and contract; (2) a series of workshops to begin  
3 preparation for high school and beyond; (3) a daylong life  
4 simulation that encourages a large number of youth to walk  
5 through high school, get their documents and learn about the  
6 various resources that are available to them; and (4) tutoring. The  
7 program has assessed several thousand youth since 1996 and has  
8 provided direct services to many of them.

9 (b) The Early Start to Emancipation Program currently  
10 operating in the County of Los Angeles has been a valuable means  
11 of preparing foster youth between 14 and 15 years of age for  
12 emancipation in a manner that will maximize their chances of  
13 graduating from high school and entering college.

14 SEC. 2. Section 16012 is added to the Welfare and Institutions  
15 Code, to read:

16 16012. The department shall establish and implement, until  
17 January 1, 2005, a foster youth training institute. The institute shall  
18 provide technical assistance and training to help counties that elect  
19 to establish Early Start to Emancipation programs similar to a  
20 program established in the County of Los Angeles that provides  
21 services to foster youth as they transition from middle school to  
22 high school. These services include, but are not limited to,  
23 outreach and assessment, workshops for high school preparation,  
24 and tutoring. The department, in consultation with the County of  
25 Los Angeles and the Community College Foundation, shall adopt  
26 regulations necessary to implement this section.

27 SEC. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation  
28 that would appropriate three hundred seventy-five thousand  
29 dollars (\$375,000) to the State Department of Social Services for  
30 allocation in equal yearly installments of one hundred twenty-five  
31 thousand dollars (\$125,000) for purposes of a foster youth training  
32 institute established in Section 16012 of the Welfare and  
33 Institutions Code.

