

Introduced by Senator Burton

March 3, 2004

An act relating to child care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1897, as introduced, Burton. Child care reform.

Existing law authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop standards for the implementation of quality child care programs and to contract for the provision of child care and development services.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to reform the reimbursement system for child care based on specified criteria, to establish quality provider pools to employ family child care providers, to require the State Department of Education to provide to the Legislature regular assessments of the supply and demand for subsidized and unsubsidized child care, and to require the development of a plan detailing expectations and a career ladder for staff of child care and development providers.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to attain all
- 2 of the following goals:
- 3 (1) Improve the overall provision of child care, so that the
- 4 system is administered efficiently and maximum resources are
- 5 spent on care for children and families.

- 1 (2) Ensure that families eligible for subsidized child care under
2 the CalWORKs program and other child development programs,
3 and working families outside the subsidized child care system,
4 retain access to child care, and that access to high quality child care
5 is incrementally increased.
- 6 (3) Affirm and strengthen parental choice of child care and the
7 infrastructure to support those choices.
- 8 (4) Guarantee due process protections for families and child
9 care providers.
- 10 (5) Consider the impact of any reforms on both unsubsidized
11 and subsidized child care.
- 12 (6) Ensure that public reimbursements for child care are linked
13 to quality criteria.
- 14 (7) Ensure that child care providers have access to employment
15 supports that provide for the improvement of quality standards in
16 child care.
 - 17 (b) To attain the goals expressed in subdivision (a), it is the
18 intent of the Legislature to do all of the following:
 - 19 (1) Require the State Department of Education to reform the
20 reimbursement system for child care by establishing a unified rate
21 system for child care centers and family day care providers that
22 care for children of parents who receive public subsidies. The new
23 rate structure would be consistent with the following principles:
 - 24 (A) The basic rate would be linked to fees charged in the private
25 child care market and adjusted annually to reflect changes in the
26 private child care market.
 - 27 (B) The need for special rates for certain children, based on the
28 age of the child, the time in care, and demonstrated special needs
29 of the child.
 - 30 (C) Incentives would be provided for providers that meet
31 measurable standards to improve child care and maintain high
32 quality.
 - 33 (2) Establish regional quality provider pools that would
34 employ family child care providers who meet minimum quality
35 and health and safety standards and who voluntarily choose to join
36 the pool. Each quality provider pool would be authorized to
37 operate a substitute provider pool for family child care providers.
38 Each quality provider pool would be authorized to join together in
39 a consortium, along with child care centers, regarding the more



1 efficient and cost-effective administration and purchasing of
2 benefits for child care workers.

3 (3) Require the State Department of Education to provide to the
4 Legislature regular assessments of the supply and demand for
5 subsidized and unsubsidized child care, including
6 recommendations on the best use of funds available to meet the
7 needs of children and families. The recommendations would
8 include a multiyear plan or options to incrementally address the
9 needs of low-income working families eligible for child care
10 subsidies who remain on waiting lists.

11 (4) Require representatives from state agencies engaged in
12 licensing, credentialing, and training of child care providers to
13 develop a plan detailing expectations and a career ladder for staff
14 of child care and development providers. The representatives
15 would be required to submit the plan to the Legislature.

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