

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 628**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Strickland**

February 17, 2005

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An act to add Section 1502.1 to the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 16015 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 628, as introduced, Strickland. Foster care givers.

Existing law provides for the certification, licensing, and training of foster care providers. Existing law relating to the placement of children in foster care generally requires these placements to be made in the best interests of the child.

This bill would provide, notwithstanding any other provision of law, that the religious or moral beliefs of a person licensed or certified to provide foster care, or of a person applying for licensure or certification to provide foster care do not render the person ineligible to provide foster care, and that a foster care provider's objection, based upon religious or moral grounds, to the initial or continued placement of a foster youth in the provider's care, do not render the provider ineligible to provide foster care to any other foster youth.

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. Section 1502.1 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:

1 1502.1. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
2 religious or moral beliefs of a person licensed or certified to  
3 provide foster care, or of a person applying for licensure or  
4 certification to provide foster care, shall not render the person  
5 ineligible to provide foster care.

6 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a foster care  
7 provider's objection, based upon religious or moral grounds, to  
8 the initial or continued placement of a foster youth in the  
9 provider's care, shall not render the foster care provider  
10 ineligible to provide foster care to any other foster youth.

11 SEC. 2. Section 16015 is added to the Welfare and  
12 Institutions Code, to read:

13 16015. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
14 religious or moral beliefs of a person licensed or certified to  
15 provide foster care, or of a person applying for licensure or  
16 certification to provide foster care, shall not render the person  
17 ineligible to provide foster care.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a foster care  
19 provider's objection, based upon religious or moral grounds, to  
20 the initial or continued placement of a foster youth in the  
21 provider's care, shall not render the foster care provider  
22 ineligible to provide foster care to any other foster youth.