

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 4, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 628**

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**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 amended, 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~~ *youth's* objection, based upon religious or moral grounds, to ~~the~~ initial or continued placement ~~of a foster youth in the provider's care~~ *in a foster care provider's home*, do not render the provider ineligible to provide foster care to any other foster youth. *The bill would declare legislative intent to prohibit discrimination by a foster care provider against a foster youth based solely on the religious faith or denomination of the 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  
2 Safety Code, to read:

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

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

13 *(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a foster  
14 youth's objection, based on religious or moral grounds, to initial  
15 or continued placement in a foster care provider's home, shall  
16 not render the foster care provider ineligible to provide care to  
17 any other foster youth.*

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

20 16015. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
21 religious or moral beliefs of a person licensed or certified to  
22 provide foster care, or of a person applying for licensure or  
23 certification to provide foster care, shall not render the person  
24 ineligible to provide foster care.

25 ~~(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a foster care  
26 provider's objection, based upon religious or moral grounds, to  
27 the initial or continued placement of a foster youth in the  
28 provider's care, shall not render the foster care provider  
29 ineligible to provide foster care to any other foster youth.~~

30 *(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a foster  
31 youth's objection, based on religious or moral grounds, to initial  
32 or continued placement in a foster care provider's home, shall  
33 not render the foster care provider ineligible to provide care to  
34 any other foster youth.*

35 SEC. 3. *It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act  
36 to prohibit discrimination by a foster care provider against a*

- 1 *foster youth based solely on the religious faith or denomination*
- 2 *of the foster youth.*

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