

Assembly Bill No. 2556

Passed the Assembly May 31, 2006

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 22, 2006

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2006, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 13084 to the Government Code, relating to childhood poverty.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2556, Jones. Social services: childhood poverty.

Existing law creates the Department of Finance, and specifies the duties and responsibilities of that department. Existing law authorizes the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to appoint a Legislative Analyst and such other clerical and technical employees as may appear necessary. The California Constitution requires the Governor to submit to the Legislature a budget proposal on or before January 10 of each year.

This bill would declare that it is a goal of the Legislature to reduce child poverty by one-half by January 1, 2016, and to eliminate it entirely by January 1, 2026.

This bill would require the Department of Finance, in conjunction with the release of the Governor's Budget proposal, to report to the Legislature on how the Governor's Budget proposal will impact the state's goal of reducing child poverty.

This bill would further require the Legislative Analyst to include, in the analysis of the annual Governor's budget proposal, an analysis of this report.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) One in five California children live in poverty, 7 percent live in extreme poverty, with income below 50 percent of poverty levels, and over 40 percent of children are considered low income, with income levels below 200 percent of poverty.

(b) The economic security of families affects every aspect of children's lives.

(c) Poverty and hunger put children at high risk for health, developmental, and behavioral problems. The children at greatest risk are those who experience poverty when they are young and

who experience persistent and deep poverty. Child poverty is also associated with difficulties later in life such as dropping out of school, poor adolescent and adult health, teenage pregnancy, and poor employment outcomes.

(d) One in six poor children in the United States lives in California compared to one in 10 two decades ago.

(e) Poverty is disproportionately concentrated in families that are Latino, African-American, Native American, or Southeast Asian.

(f) California alone has accounted for all the net national increase of 800,000 in the number of children living in poverty since the late 1970s.

(g) More than two in three poor children in California live in working families with at least one employed parent.

(h) Parental education is a major factor in determining family income.

(i) Hundreds of thousands of California's children are eligible for state subsidized child care, but do not receive it because there are not sufficient child care slots.

(j) Nearly 800,000 of California's children lack health insurance. Fifty-five percent of those children are eligible for the Healthy Families Program or Medi-Cal.

(k) Child support payments are a critical source of economic stability for both moderate- and low-income families. California collects less than one-half of the current child support due each year for families in California, ranking the state 52 out of 54 states and territories.

SEC. 2. The Legislature declares that it is the goal of the Legislature to reduce child poverty by one-half by January 1, 2016, and to eliminate it entirely by January 1, 2026.

SEC. 3. Section 13084 is added to the Government Code, to read:

13084. (a) The Department of Finance shall, in conjunction with the release of the Governor's Budget proposal on or before January 10 of each year, report to the Legislature on how the Governor's Budget proposal will impact the state's goal of reducing child poverty.

(b) The Legislative Analyst shall, in his or her analysis of the annual Governor's Budget proposal, analyze the report issued pursuant to subdivision (a).

Approved _____, 2006

Governor