

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2985**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Maze**  
*(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bass)*

February 24, 2006

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*An act to amend Section 1522.41 of, and to add Section 1522.6 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to group homes. An act to add Section 10618.6 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to identity theft.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2985, as amended, Maze. ~~Group homes: administrator and employee requirements. Foster youth: identity theft.~~

*Existing law requires the placement of dependent children by the juvenile court according to specified procedures. Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to administer every phase of the administration of public social services, except as specified. Existing law also requires the state, through the department and county welfare departments, to establish and support a system of statewide child welfare, which includes services related to foster care placement of dependent children and adoption.*

*This bill would require a county welfare department to conduct a credit check on behalf of a youth in a foster care placement in the county, when the youth reaches his or her 16th birthday, in order to ascertain whether the youth has been the victim of identity theft. If the credit check discloses evidence that identity theft has occurred, the*

*bill would require the county welfare department to refer the youth to a nonprofit entity that provides credit counseling and investigative services. By requiring county welfare departments to perform new duties with respect to children in foster care placement, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.*

*The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.*

*This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.*

~~Under the existing California Community Care Facilities Act, the State Department of Social Services generally regulates the licensure and operation of community care facilities, including group homes. Under existing law, a violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor.~~

~~This bill would provide, with specified exceptions, that no group home may employ any person under 21 years of age in any aspect of the operation of the group home, and would apply these provisions to administrators of group homes.~~

~~Because this bill would create a new crime, this bill would result in a state-mandated local program.~~

~~The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.~~

~~This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.~~

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

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

- 1     SECTION 1. Section 10618.6 is added to the Welfare and
- 2     Institutions Code, to read:
- 3     10618.6. A county welfare department shall conduct a credit
- 4     check on behalf of any youth in a foster care placement in the
- 5     county, when the youth reaches his or her 16th birthday, in order
- 6     to ascertain whether the youth has been the victim of identity

1 theft. If the credit check discloses evidence that identity theft has  
2 occurred, the county welfare department shall refer the youth to  
3 a nonprofit entity that provides credit counseling and  
4 investigative services, to explore the circumstances of the identity  
5 theft and determine the steps necessary to clear the youth's credit  
6 history, in order to facilitate self-sufficiency for the youth.

7 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
8 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
9 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
10 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
11 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

12 SECTION 1. ~~The Legislature finds and declares as follows:~~

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15 **All matter omitted in this version of the bill**  
16 **appears in the bill as amended in the**  
17 **Assembly, April 18,2006 (JR11)**  
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