

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 14, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 190

Introduced by Assembly Member Bass

January 25, 2007

~~An act to add Section 10609.10 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to child welfare. An act to add Section 22511.3 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 190, as amended, Bass. ~~Child welfare services. Vehicles: veterans: parking.~~

(1) Existing law authorizes the issuance of special license plates by the Department of Motor Vehicles to certain qualified veterans for their vehicles.

This bill would authorize veterans displaying those special license plates on their vehicles to park, without charge, in a metered parking space, as specified. The bill would impose a new duty on a local agency by requiring the local agency to provide a program for implementation of this requirement, thereby creating a state-mandated local program.

(2) 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.

~~Existing law requires each county to provide child welfare services, and provides for the administration of various child welfare services pursuant to regulations and procedures adopted by the State Department of Social Services.~~

~~Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to contract with an appropriate and qualified entity to conduct an evaluation of the adequacy of current child welfare services budgeting methodology, and to convene an advisory group. Pursuant to existing law, the Director of Social Services has convened an advisory group, the Child Welfare Services Stakeholders Group, to address concerns facing the child welfare system.~~

~~Existing law requires the state to annually designate \$98,000,000 from specified Budget Act items for county child welfare services system improvement. Existing law further requires the department to work with the County Welfare Directors Association, among others, to develop and submit to the Legislature by February 1, 2007, a proposed methodology for budgeting these child welfare services program funds, to be applicable commencing with the 2007–08 fiscal year, as specified.~~

~~This bill would require the state to budget the child welfare services program, exclusive of specified state funding, in accordance with specified optimal caseload standards recommended by the Child Welfare Services Stakeholders Group. This bill would require the new budgeting standards to be phased in over a 5-year period, commencing with the 2007–08 fiscal year, and to be fully implemented by the end of the 2011–12 fiscal year. This bill would also require these new standards to reflect county-specific cost factors, as estimated pursuant to a specified provision of existing law.~~

~~This bill would further require the department, commencing in January 2008, to annually update the recommended budgeting standards, as specified. The bill would require a county to provide funds sufficient to match the county's base funding allocation for child welfare services in order to be eligible for the increased funding provided for by the bill. This bill would require the county to develop a plan for the use of their additional funds, and would require the county's system improvement plan, developed pursuant to a specified provision of existing law, to be modified to include the plan required by the bill.~~

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

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

1 *SECTION 1. Section 22511.3 is added to the Vehicle Code, to*
2 *read:*

3 22511.3. (a) *A veteran displaying special license plates issued*
4 *under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6, or 5101.8 may park*
5 *his or her motor vehicle, weighing not more than 6,000 pounds*
6 *gross weight, without charge, in a metered parking space.*

7 (b) *Nothing in this section restricts the rights of a person*
8 *displaying either a special identification license plate issued*
9 *pursuant to Section 5007 or a distinguishing placard issued*
10 *pursuant to Section 22511.55 or 22511.59.*

11 (c) (1) *This section does not exempt a vehicle displaying special*
12 *license plates issued under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6,*
13 *or 5101.8 from compliance with any other state law or ordinance,*
14 *including, but not limited to, vehicle height restrictions, zones that*
15 *prohibit stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles, parking*
16 *time limitations, street sweeping, restrictions of the parking space*
17 *to a particular type of vehicle, or the parking of a vehicle that is*
18 *involved in the operation of a street vending business.*

19 (2) *This section does not authorize a vehicle displaying special*
20 *license plates issued under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6,*
21 *or 5101.8 to park in a state parking facility that is designated only*
22 *for state employees.*

23 (3) *This section does not authorize a vehicle displaying special*
24 *license plates issued under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6,*
25 *or 5101.8 to park during time periods other than the normal*
26 *business hours of, or the maximum time allotted by, a state or local*
27 *authority parking facility.*

28 (4) *This section does not require the state or a local authority*
29 *to designate specific parking spaces for vehicles displaying special*
30 *license plates issued under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6,*
31 *or 5101.8.*

32 *SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
33 *this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to*
34 *local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*
35 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
36 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

37 ~~*SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*~~
38 ~~*following:*~~

1 (a) ~~The standards used to determine child welfare social worker~~
2 ~~caseloads were developed in the mid-1980s and are now over 20~~
3 ~~years old. The 1984 standards that are currently referenced in the~~
4 ~~State Department of Social Services' budget materials are no longer~~
5 ~~relevant, given the number of changes to the program over the last~~
6 ~~20 years.~~

7 (b) ~~The child welfare services workload study conducted by an~~
8 ~~independent contractor pursuant to Section 10609.5 of the Welfare~~
9 ~~and Institutions Code concluded that child welfare social workers~~
10 ~~currently bear caseloads that are far in excess of what is reasonable~~
11 ~~to meet the requirements of existing statutory and case law.~~

12 (c) ~~The findings and recommendations of the child welfare~~
13 ~~services workload study were highly consistent with the standards~~
14 ~~established by national child welfare organizations, such as the~~
15 ~~Child Welfare League of America, and with numerous standards~~
16 ~~that have been imposed on states by consent decrees and court~~
17 ~~orders.~~

18 (d) ~~Since the 2000 publication of the child welfare services~~
19 ~~workload study, federal and state governments and the courts, have~~
20 ~~increased the workload on child welfare workers.~~

21 (e) ~~California's child welfare system is now severely~~
22 ~~understaffed as a result of these out-of-date caseload standards.~~

23 (f) ~~The effects of excessive child welfare worker caseloads on~~
24 ~~children and their families can be devastating and may include all~~
25 ~~of the following:~~

- 26 (1) ~~Inadequate response to reports of child abuse and neglect.~~
- 27 (2) ~~Inability to ensure that out-of-home placements are~~
28 ~~appropriate.~~
- 29 (3) ~~Reduced monitoring of children in out-of-home placements.~~
- 30 (4) ~~Reduced service to families attempting to reunify with their~~
31 ~~children.~~
- 32 (5) ~~Poor outcomes for foster youth and their families with~~
33 ~~children in foster care.~~

34 SEC. 2. ~~Section 10609.10 is added to the Welfare and~~
35 ~~Institutions Code, to read:~~

36 10609.10. (a) ~~Consistent with the schedule described in~~
37 ~~subdivision (b), the state shall budget the child welfare services~~
38 ~~program, excluding state funding referred to in paragraph (1) of~~
39 ~~subdivision (c), in accordance with the following optimal caseload~~
40 ~~standards recommended by the study required by Section 10609.5:~~

1 ~~(1) Screening, hotline, and intake: one worker per 68.70 cases.~~

2 ~~(2) Emergency response: one worker per 9.88 cases.~~

3 ~~(3) Family maintenance: one worker per 10.15 cases.~~

4 ~~(4) Family reunification: one worker per 11.94 cases.~~

5 ~~(5) Permanency planning: one worker per 16.42 cases.~~

6 ~~(b) The budgeting standards described in subdivision (a) shall~~
7 ~~be phased in over a five-year period, commencing with the~~
8 ~~2007-08 fiscal year, so that 20 percent of the difference between~~
9 ~~the 2006-07 fiscal year appropriation and the appropriation based~~
10 ~~on the optimal caseload standards would be funded, until that~~
11 ~~difference is eliminated in the 2011-12 fiscal year.~~

12 ~~(c) In order to be eligible for its share of the funds described in~~
13 ~~this section, a county shall do all of the following:~~

14 ~~(1) Provide county matching funds sufficient to fully match the~~
15 ~~county's base funding allocation, not including any of the county's~~
16 ~~child welfare services augmentation funds.~~

17 ~~(2) In consultation with individuals representing social workers,~~
18 ~~foster youth, families, and parents in the child welfare services~~
19 ~~system, develop a plan for the use of the additional funding in this~~
20 ~~section to provide social workers with additional time or support~~
21 ~~to enhance casework and the outcomes for children and families~~
22 ~~described in Section 10601.2. Plan elements may include, but are~~
23 ~~not limited to, reduced caseloads of social workers, additional~~
24 ~~clerical, paraprofessional, and support staff to allow social workers~~
25 ~~more time for casework and client contact, and additional services~~
26 ~~for youth and families to assist workers in helping children and~~
27 ~~families achieve case plan goals and improve outcomes.~~

28 ~~(3) By January 1, 2008, modify the county's system~~
29 ~~improvement plan developed pursuant to Section 10601.2 to~~
30 ~~include the county plan required by paragraph (2) and the specific~~
31 ~~outcomes that the county intends to improve through the~~
32 ~~implementation of the plan.~~

33 ~~(4) Annually, or more frequently at the county's option, review~~
34 ~~its progress on the implementation of the plan required by~~
35 ~~paragraph (2) and performance on the identified outcomes, and~~
36 ~~consult with social workers, foster youth, and families in the child~~
37 ~~welfare system on possible modifications to the plan necessary to~~
38 ~~achieve improved outcomes.~~

39 ~~(d) Commencing in January 2008, the department shall annually~~
40 ~~update the recommended budgeting standards described in~~

1 ~~subdivision (a) based on statutory, regulatory, and practice changes~~
2 ~~that have occurred since the most recent update.~~

3 ~~(e) In establishing compliance thresholds for outcome measures~~
4 ~~developed pursuant to Section 10601.2, the department shall take~~
5 ~~into consideration the extent to which the child welfare system is~~
6 ~~funded to meet the budgeting standards required by this section.~~

7 ~~(f) The budgeting standards described in subdivision (a) shall~~
8 ~~reflect county-specific cost factors as estimated by the process~~
9 ~~described in Section 10507.~~