

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 2008

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1470**

---

---

**Introduced by Senators Lowenthal and Yee**  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Caballero, Jones, and Lieber)

February 21, 2008

---

---

An act to add Division 28 (commencing with Section 28000) to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to homeless youth.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1470, as amended, Lowenthal. Homeless Youth Prevention *and Assistance Act* of 2008.

Existing law establishes an interagency system of care for children with serious emotional and behavioral disturbances that provides comprehensive, coordinated children's services.

Existing law establishes the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund of 2006 in the State Treasury, and states the intent of the Legislature that the proceeds of bonds deposited in the fund shall be used to fund specified housing-related programs.

This bill would require the State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Housing and Community Development, *on or before May 1, 2010, and in consultation with designated entities, to develop, adopt, and distribute a statewide strategic ~~homeless youth prevention plan to establish and distribute guidelines to prevention and assistance plan for homeless youth, including supports for youth whose current living situations are unstable. The bill would require the plan to include guidelines for distribution to counties and local mental health departments to address the Children's Mental Health Services Act, and the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.~~*

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

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

1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to address the  
2 problem of ~~homeless youth~~ *youth homelessness* in California. *The*  
3 *intent of this act is not only to prevent youth homelessness, but*  
4 *also to provide supports to young people who are currently*  
5 *homeless, so that they can find and maintain stable living*  
6 *situations.*

7 SEC. 2. Division 28 (commencing with Section 28000) is added  
8 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

9

10 DIVISION 28. CALIFORNIA HOMELESS YOUTH  
11 PREVENTION AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2008

12

13 28000. ~~The~~ *On or before May 1, 2010, the State Department*  
14 *of Mental Health and the State Department of Housing and*  
15 *Community Development shall, in consultation with appropriate*  
16 *state agencies, adopt agencies and other entities specified in Section*  
17 *28001, develop, adopt, and distribute a statewide strategic homeless*  
18 *youth prevention plan to establish and distribute guidelines to*  
19 *counties and a statewide strategic prevention and assistance plan*  
20 *for homeless youth, including supports for youth whose current*  
21 *living situations are unstable. The plan shall include guidelines*  
22 *for distribution to counties and local mental health departments*  
23 *to address the Children’s Mental Health Services Act (Part 4*  
24 *(commencing with Section 5850) of Division 5 of the Welfare and*  
25 ~~*Institutions Code*~~*), 5), and the Housing and Emergency Shelter*  
26 *Trust Fund Act of 2006 (Part 12 (commencing with Section 53540)*  
27 *of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code).*

28 28001. The State Department of Mental Health and the  
29 Department of Housing and Community Development shall, in  
30 implementing this division, consult with the State Department of  
31 Alcohol and Drug Programs, the State Department of Social  
32 Services, *the State Department of Health Care Services*, the  
33 California Department of Education, the Office of the State  
34 Treasurer, California Community Colleges, *the Department of*  
35 *Corrections and Rehabilitation*, and representatives of *other*

1 appropriate agencies, including, but not limited to, county mental  
2 health departments, local law enforcement agencies, local shelter  
3 and transition programs, and local ~~youth groups~~ *homeless and*  
4 *formerly homeless youth.*

5 *28002. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall*  
6 *have the following meanings:*

7 *(a) "Homeless" means lacking a stable or permanent living*  
8 *situation.*

9 *(b) "Youth" means young people 12 to 25 years of age,*  
10 *inclusive, who are unaccompanied by a responsible adult.*