

AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 9, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 295

Introduced by Assembly Member Ammiano

February 17, 2009

~~An act to amend Sections 16124, 18250, 18251, 18253, 18253.5, 18254, 18255, 18256, and 18256.5 of, and to amend the heading of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18250) of Part 6 of Division 9 of, and to add Section 18258 to, the Welfare and Institutions Code, An act to amend Section 16124 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 295, as amended, Ammiano. Children: ~~wrap-around~~ and adoption services.

~~(1) Existing~~

Existing law requires, upon appropriation by the Legislature of funds for this purpose, that the State Department of Social Services establish a 3-year project in 4 counties, including San Francisco and Los Angeles Counties, and one state district office, and further requires that funding to those counties from appropriations in the annual Budget Act be used to provide funding for preadoption and postadoption services to ensure the successful adoption of a targeted population of children who have been in foster care 18 months or more. Existing law requires the department to work with counties to develop requirements for the

project, and to provide information on the results of the project to the Legislature, by November 30, 2010.

This bill would extend the availability of funds appropriated for the specified adoption activities to June 30, 2010, and would also extend the date for the department to provide the related information to the Legislature to May 31, 2011.

~~(2) Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services administers a pilot project that authorizes a county to develop and implement a plan for providing wrap-around services designed to enable children who would otherwise be placed in a group home setting to remain in the least restrictive, most family-like setting possible. The pilot project imposes training requirements for staff in participating counties. These provisions require each participating county to conduct an evaluation to determine the cost-effectiveness and treatment effectiveness of specified outcomes, including academic performance, and to file periodic reports containing prescribed information with the appropriate committees of the Legislature and the department for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of the pilot program.~~

~~This bill would remove the designation of this program as a pilot project and make conforming changes.~~

~~This bill would delete the requirement that the evaluation conducted by a participating county consider the cost-effectiveness and treatment effectiveness of the outcome of academic performance, and would, instead, require it to consider the outcome of stability in the least restrictive school placement.~~

~~This bill would require that the periodic reports filed by a participating county also include consideration of the impact of wrap-around services on improving performance in applicable California Child and Family Service Review System outcome indicators, such as safety, permanency, and child well-being.~~

~~(3) Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which health care services are provided to qualified low-income persons.~~

~~Existing law creates the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program, under which a combination of federal, state, and county funds are used to provide reimbursement to families and facilities providing foster care to eligible children.~~

~~Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to administer the Adoption Assistance Program, under which aid is~~

~~provided to persons adopting children, based on the needs of those children.~~

~~Existing federal law establishes the Independent Living Program for foster youth to be administered by counties with federal and state funds.~~

~~This bill would require that a child that is otherwise categorically eligible for Medi-Cal benefits without a share of cost due to being a recipient of benefits under the AFDC-FC program or the Adoption Assistance Program shall remain eligible for Medi-Cal benefits for the time specified in the child's individualized services plan established pursuant to the Wrap-Around Services Program, as prescribed.~~

~~This bill would also require that a child who reaches 16 years of age while receiving wrap-around services be eligible to request and receive independent living services pursuant to the Independent Living Program.~~

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. Section 16124 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is amended to read:

3 16124. (a) (1) Upon the appropriation of funds by the
4 Legislature for the purposes set forth in this section, the State
5 Department of Social Services shall establish a project in four
6 counties and one state district office of the department to provide
7 preadoption and postadoption services to ensure the successful
8 adoption of children and youth who have been in foster care 18
9 months or more, are at least nine years of age, and are placed in
10 an unrelated foster home or in a group home.

11 (2) The participating entities shall include the following:

12 (A) City and County of San Francisco.

13 (B) County of Los Angeles.

14 (C) Two additional counties and one state district office, based
15 on criteria developed by the department in consultation with the
16 County Welfare Directors Association, which shall demonstrate
17 geographic diversity.

18 (3) A county that elects to apply for funding pursuant to this
19 section shall submit an application to the department no later than
20 a date determined by the department to ensure timely allocation
21 of funds. The department shall review the applications received,
22 and select the eligible counties in accordance with this section.

1 (b) Each entity identified pursuant to paragraph (2) of
2 subdivision (a) shall receive funding to provide preadoption and
3 postadoption services to the adoptive parents and the targeted
4 population identified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

5 (1) Preadoption and postadoption services for the child and each
6 family may include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

- 7 (A) Individualized or other recruitment efforts.
- 8 (B) Postadoption services, including respite care.
- 9 (C) Behavioral health services.
- 10 (D) Peer support groups.
- 11 (E) Information and referral services.
- 12 (F) Other locally designed services, as appropriate.
- 13 (G) Relative search efforts.
- 14 (H) Training of adoptive parents, foster youth, or mentoring
15 families.
- 16 (I) Mediation services.
- 17 (J) Facilitation of siblings in the same placement.
- 18 (K) Facilitation of postadoption contact.
- 19 (L) Engaging youth in permanency decisionmaking.
- 20 (M) Any service or support necessary to resolve any identified
21 barrier to adoption.

22 (2) The services specified in paragraph (1) may be provided
23 directly by the county, contracted for by the county, or provided
24 through reimbursement to the family, as approved by the county.

25 (c) The amount of funding provided in the appropriation of
26 funds provided by the annual Budget Act to each county
27 participating in the project shall be allocated as follows:

- 28 (1) Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) to the City
29 and County of San Francisco.
- 30 (2) One million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000)
31 to the County of Los Angeles.
- 32 (3) A total of two million dollars (\$2,000,000), to be awarded
33 to the two additional counties and the district office selected
34 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a),
35 minus any funds subtracted by the department for the purpose of
36 administering the project. The amount of funds provided to the
37 department for administration of the project, including the costs
38 of collecting and analyzing data pursuant to subdivision (h) and
39 developing the information pursuant to subdivision (i), shall not
40 exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000).

1 (4) If the appropriated amount in the annual Budget Act differs
2 from the total amount specified above, then the funds shall be
3 distributed in the same proportion as the amounts listed in
4 paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive.

5 (d) Funds shall be allocated to the counties pursuant to
6 subdivision (c) no later than January 1 of each year, and shall
7 remain available for expenditure until June 30, 2010.

8 (e) (1) The department shall seek approval for any federal
9 matching funds that may be available to supplement the project.

10 (2) The implementation of the project shall not be dependent
11 upon the receipt of federal funding.

12 (3) Project funds shall supplement, and not supplant, existing
13 federal, state, and local funds, and shall be used only in accordance
14 with the terms and conditions of the project.

15 (4) No expenditure made for services specified in subdivision
16 (b) may be made to the extent that it renders the family ineligible
17 for federal adoption assistance.

18 (f) The project shall be implemented only upon the adoption of
19 a resolution adopted by each county board of supervisors.

20 (g) The department shall work with the counties to develop the
21 requirements for the project, including the number of families that
22 may participate in the project, given the available resources, and
23 guidelines for data collection, as required by subdivision (h).

24 (h) (1) The department shall work with the participating county
25 and the state district office to analyze the effects of the project.

26 (2) Measures assessed by the state and counties shall include,
27 but shall not be limited to, the following:

28 (A) The extent to which the adoptions of the targeted population
29 identified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) increased as a result
30 of the project.

31 (B) The number of families and children served by the project.

32 (C) The type and amount of preadoption and postadoption
33 services that were provided to children and families under the
34 project.

35 (i) The department shall provide information to the Legislature
36 on the results of the project by May 31, 2011.

37 (j) Adoption programs in the project counties shall be
38 encouraged to create public-private partnerships with private
39 adoption agencies to maximize their success in improving
40 permanent outcomes for older foster youth.

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**All matter omitted in this version of the bill
appears in the bill as amended in Assembly,
June 1, 2009 (JR11)**

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