

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 16, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 13, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 665**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Torrico**

February 25, 2009

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An act to amend Section 16131.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to children, ~~and making an appropriation therefor.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 665, as amended, Torrico. State adoption services: investment.

Existing law provides for child welfare services, which are public social services directed toward, among other purposes, protecting and promoting the welfare of all children, including those in foster care placement.

Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services may provide state adoption services in a county that has not established a county adoption agency. Existing law requires the state to reinvest incentive payments, received through the implementation of specified provisions of federal law, into the child welfare system, in order to provide adoption services for older children.

This bill would, instead, require the state to reinvest these adoption incentive payments into the child welfare system, in order to provide legal permanency outcomes for older children, as specified.

This bill would ~~continuously appropriate the amount of~~ *require* the adoption incentive payments to the State Department of Social Services ~~for allocation,~~ *upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be allocated*

to counties, and the department for a county in which the department serves as an adoption agency, based on documented legal permanency outcomes for older children achieved by each county for the purpose of improving legal permanency outcomes for older children, as specified.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 16131.5 of the Welfare and Institutions  
2 Code is amended to read:

3 16131.5. (a) The state shall reinvest adoption incentive  
4 payments received through the implementation of the federal  
5 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act  
6 of 2008 (Public Law 110-351) into the child welfare system, in  
7 order to provide legal permanency outcomes for older children,  
8 including, but not limited to, adoption, guardianship, and  
9 reunification of children whose reunification services were  
10 previously terminated.

11 ~~(b) Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code,~~  
12 ~~the amount of adoption incentive payments received pursuant to~~  
13 ~~subdivision (a) are hereby continuously appropriated without regard~~  
14 ~~to the fiscal year to the State Department of Social Services for~~  
15 ~~allocation~~

16 *(b) The incentive payments received pursuant to subdivision*  
17 *(a), upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget*  
18 *Act or another statute, shall be allocated by the State Department*  
19 *of Social Services to the counties, and the department for a county*  
20 *in which the department serves as an adoption agency, based on*  
21 *documented increases in legal permanency outcomes for older*  
22 *children achieved by each county, as determined by the department,*  
23 *in consultation with counties, for the purposes specified in this*  
24 *section.*

25 (c) A county, or the department when it acts as the adoption  
26 agency for a county, shall use adoption incentive payment funds  
27 to improve or sustain legal permanency outcomes for older  
28 children. A county shall reinvest savings that result from successful  
29 legal permanency outcome efforts for older children into activities  
30 that improve legal permanency outcomes for older children.

- 1 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supplant funds
- 2 currently being spent on programs to provide legal permanency
- 3 outcomes.

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