

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 12, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 4, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 30, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 671**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Portantino**

February 17, 2011

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An act to add Section 16501.4 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to child welfare services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 671, as amended, Portantino. Child welfare services: education and training requirements.

Existing law requires the establishment and support of a public system of statewide child welfare services, for the protection of children who are alleged to be abused or neglected. Existing law provides for a statewide multipurpose child welfare training program to develop and implement statewide coordinated training programs designed specifically to meet the needs of county child protective services social workers *who are* assigned emergency response, family maintenance, family reunification, permanent placement, and adoption responsibilities.

This bill would specify education and training requirements for social work supervisors ~~and other personnel performing social work activities in a county child welfare services agency~~. ~~This bill would exempt a social worker employed before~~ *who are hired on or after* January 1,

2013, from related field practice, course work, and experience requirements, as prescribed 2016.

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 in enacting this  
 2 act to improve outcomes and increase consumer protection in child  
 3 welfare services by improving the educational standards of  
 4 supervisors in child welfare services to ensure that each supervisor  
 5 has the appropriate training, experience, and education.
- 6 SEC. 2. Section 16501.4 is added to the Welfare and  
 7 Institutions Code, to read:
- 8 16501.4. (a) (1) The educational requirements for social work  
 9 supervisors for a county child welfare services agency shall be a  
 10 master’s degree ~~in social work~~ from an accredited or state-approved  
 11 graduate school in social work or social welfare.
- 12 (2) A person who possesses a master’s degree from an accredited  
 13 or state-approved graduate school in any of the following areas,  
 14 ~~or~~ and at least three ~~years~~ years’ experience in child welfare as  
 15 determined by the department, shall be qualified to perform  
 16 supervisory social work activities in a county child welfare services  
 17 agency:
- 18 (A) Marriage, family, and child counseling.
  - 19 (B) Child psychology.
  - 20 (C) Child development.
  - 21 (D) Counseling psychology.
  - 22 (E) Social psychology.
  - 23 (F) Clinical psychology.
  - 24 (G) Educational psychology, consistent with the scope of  
 25 practice as described in Section 4989.14 of the Business and  
 26 Professions Code.
  - 27 (H) Education, with emphasis on counseling.
- 28 (3) *Commencing January 1, 2016, a person hired before January*  
 29 *1, 2016, without a master’s degree but with equivalent education*  
 30 *and experience, as determined by the department, shall be qualified*  
 31 *to perform supervisory social work activities in a county child*  
 32 *welfare services agency.*

1 (b) The degree requirements and experience requirements  
2 described ~~in this section~~ *in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision*  
3 *(a)* shall only apply to supervisors hired on or after January 1, ~~2013~~  
4 *2016*.

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