

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 823

Introduced by Assembly Member Dickinson

February 17, 2011

An act to add *and repeal* Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 96050) to of Title 15 of the Government Code, relating to children's services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 823, as amended, Dickinson. Children's Cabinet of California.

Existing law, the California Early Intervention Services Act, requires the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide a statewide system of coordinated, comprehensive, family-centered, multidisciplinary, interagency programs responsible for providing appropriate early intervention services and support to all eligible infants and toddlers and their families.

~~This bill would establish the Children's Cabinet of California to consist, in part, of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and the head of each agency and department within the state that provides services for, or has jurisdiction over the well-being of, children, and would set forth its powers and duties, including making recommendations to the Governor on ways to improve the delivery of services to children and families by making those services more responsive, efficient, and effective, and to support efforts to carry out those activities. The bill would require the cabinet to annually report to the Governor and the Legislature.~~

This bill would establish the Children’s Cabinet of California to serve, until January 1, 2019, as an advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies that provide services to the children and youth of the state. This bill would provide that the cabinet shall be comprised of, among others, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, or his or designee, and the heads of various specified state agencies. The bill would require the cabinet to provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on a regular basis, which shall include an annual report addressing specified priorities.

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. Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 96050) is
 2 added to Title 15 of the Government Code, to read:

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CHAPTER 2. CHILDREN’S CABINET OF CALIFORNIA

5

6 96050. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

7 (a) All state agencies and programs that touch the lives of
 8 children and youth *and their families* must work in a coordinated
 9 and comprehensive fashion, with an emphasis on providing a
 10 continuum of services that benefit children, from prenatal care
 11 through programs supporting successful transition to self-sufficient
 12 adulthood.

13 (b) The Legislature, in collaboration with the Governor, intends
 14 to develop and implement a shared vision among the branches of
 15 government in order to improve child and family outcomes in this
 16 state.

17 (c) By working collaboratively with the Governor, the
 18 Legislature intends to do all of the following:

19 (1) Invest in the education and skills of our children and youth
 20 *and their families*.

21 (2) Develop a cohesive vision and plan that ensures a long-term
 22 commitment to issues regarding children and youth *and their*
 23 *families*.

1 (3) Align public resources serving children and youth *and their*
2 *families* to support their healthy growth and development.

3 (4) Promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery
4 by all government agencies that provide services to children and
5 youth, and their families.

6 96051. (a) The Children’s Cabinet of California is hereby
7 established within state government, *which shall serve as an*
8 *advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration and*
9 *processes of the multiple agencies that provide services to the*
10 *children and youth of the state.* ~~The purpose of the cabinet is to~~
11 ~~make recommendations to the Governor on ways to improve the~~
12 ~~delivery of services to children and families by making those~~
13 ~~services more responsive, efficient, and effective, and to support~~
14 ~~efforts to carry out those activities.~~

15 ~~(b) Members of the cabinet shall be appointed by, and serve at~~
16 ~~the pleasure of, the Governor. The cabinet shall consist of all of~~
17 ~~the following members:~~

18 ~~(b) The cabinet shall make recommendations to the Governor~~
19 ~~and the Legislature on ways to improve the delivery of services to~~
20 ~~children and youth and their families by making those services~~
21 ~~more responsive, efficient, and effective, and to support efforts to~~
22 ~~carry out those activities.~~

23 ~~(c) The cabinet shall be comprised of the following members:~~

24 (1) The Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Secretary
25 of California Health and Human Services, who shall ~~be co~~chairs
26 of the cabinet *serve as cochairs.*

27 ~~(2) The head of each agency and department within the state~~
28 ~~that provides services for, or has jurisdiction over the well-being~~
29 ~~of, children.~~

30 ~~(2) The Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, or his~~
31 ~~or her designee.~~

32 ~~(3) The Secretary of the Department of Corrections and~~
33 ~~Rehabilitation, or his or her designee.~~

34 (4) *The Director of Social Services.*

35 (5) *The Director of Health Care Services.*

36 (6) *The State Public Health Officer.*

37 (7) *The Director of Mental Health.*

38 (8) *The Director of Alcohol and Drug Programs.*

39 (9) *The Director of Developmental Services.*

40 (10) *The Director of Child Support Services.*

1 (11) *Two Members of the Assembly, as appointed by the Speaker*
2 *of the Assembly.*

3 (12) *Two Members of the Senate, as appointed by the President*
4 *pro Tempore of the Senate.*

5 ~~(3)~~

6 (13) *Additional members that may be appointed at the will of*
7 *the Governor, include the Lieutenant Governor, the First Spouse,*
8 *the Director of Finance, the Director of the Governor's Office of*
9 *Gang and Youth Violence Policy, or any other ex officio member*
10 *the Governor deems necessary.*

11 ~~(e) Members of the cabinet shall receive no compensation for~~
12 ~~their services, except that they may be reimbursed for actual travel~~
13 ~~and related expenses in accordance with state policy.~~

14 ~~(d) The work of the cabinet shall be guided by the Governor~~
15 ~~and the cabinet cochairs.~~

16 ~~(e) The cabinet shall be responsible for all of the following:~~

17 ~~(d) Staffing of the cabinet shall be a shared responsibility among~~
18 ~~the cochairs of the cabinet within existing resources or to the extent~~
19 ~~private funds are made available for this purpose.~~

20 ~~(e) The cabinet cochairs shall be responsible for all of the~~
21 ~~following:~~

22 (1) *Commencing operation and meeting for its the cabinet's*
23 *organizational session by March 1, 2012. Thereafter, the cabinet*
24 *shall meet at least six times per year, no less frequently than each*
25 *quarter of the fiscal year and on the call of the cochairs. Members*
26 *of the cabinet shall receive no compensation for their services,*
27 *except that they may be reimbursed for actual travel and related*
28 *expenses in accordance with state policy.*

29 (2) ~~Appointing working groups committees, as needed, to further~~
30 ~~the work of the cabinet to address specific issues. Working groups~~
31 ~~committees shall consist of at least one cabinet member and may~~
32 ~~include members of upper level management within the agencies~~
33 ~~and departments within the state that provide services for, or have~~
34 ~~jurisdiction over the well-being of, children. Members of the~~
35 ~~committees shall receive no compensation from the state for their~~
36 ~~services, except that they may be reimbursed for actual travel and~~
37 ~~related expenses in accordance with state policy. The committees~~
38 ~~may assemble information and make recommendations to the~~
39 ~~cabinet, but shall not exercise any powers vested in the cabinet.~~

1 (3) Identifying at least one upper level management staff person
2 within each department or agency *servicing on the cabinet* who shall
3 function as a liaison between the cabinet and the department or
4 agency, and to be a point of contact to address cross-jurisdictional
5 issues in an efficient, effective, and expeditious manner.

6 (4) Providing recommendations to the Governor *and the*
7 *Legislature* on a regular basis, including, but not limited to, a report
8 to the Governor and the Legislature by October 31 of each
9 even-numbered year, notwithstanding Section 10231.5. The report
10 shall address priorities described in subdivisions (f) and (g), and
11 shall be distributed to the Governor, all state agencies and
12 departments, and the Legislature, including, but not limited to, the
13 Assembly Committee on Accountability and Administrative
14 Review and the Senate Committee on Governance and Finance,
15 notwithstanding Section 9795.

16 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the ~~immediate goals of~~
17 ~~the cabinet include all of~~ *priorities of the cabinet for 2012 include*
18 the following:

19 (1) Developing a plan to maximize California's share of federal
20 funds for programs that support California's children *and youth*,
21 including, but not limited to, recommendations on the most
22 efficient and effective use of those funds.

23 ~~(2) Assessing the efficient and effective delivery of existing~~
24 ~~programs and improving the alignment of state and local resources,~~
25 ~~including, but not limited to, the elimination or consolidation of~~
26 ~~duplicative services, where appropriate.~~

27 (2) *Assessing the quality, appropriateness, efficiency, and*
28 *effectiveness of existing programs and services for children and*
29 *youth, and, to the greatest extent possible, improving the alignment*
30 *of federal, state, and local resources, including, but not limited*
31 *to, the elimination or consolidation of duplicative services for*
32 *children and youth and their families who would benefit from*
33 *integrated services, where appropriate.*

34 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that, in addition to activities
35 set forth in subdivision (f), the ongoing goals of the cabinet include
36 all of the following:

37 (1) Developing and implementing a shared and cohesive vision
38 using integrated services to improve child, youth, and family
39 outcomes in this state.

1 (2) Developing a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the shared
2 and cohesive vision. The plan shall be centered upon a long-term
3 commitment to children and youth issues and shall align all public
4 resources to serve children and youth and their families in a manner
5 that supports the healthy growth and development of children. The
6 plan shall prepare the children and youth to be responsible citizens
7 and productive members of the workforce. The plan shall include
8 a continuum of services that will benefit children from prenatal
9 care through services for youth in transition to adulthood.

10 (3) Establishing and monitoring indicators and benchmarks of
11 child well-being, and utilizing these data for evaluation and
12 planning. This may include, but need not be limited to, developing
13 and implementing measurable outcomes for each state department,
14 agency, and program that are consistent with the strategic plan.
15 This may include establishment of a baseline measurement for
16 each outcome and regularly reporting on the progress made toward
17 achieving the desired outcome.

18 (4) Promoting and implementing data sharing, collaboration,
19 increased efficiency, and improved service delivery among and
20 within the state's agencies, departments, and organizations that
21 serve children *and youth*.

22 (5) Coordinating with other state and local coordinating bodies
23 to support a seamless system of services for children *and youth*.

24 (h) In the conduct of its work pursuant to subdivisions (e), (f),
25 and (g), the cabinet shall be informed by persons who can provide
26 the best knowledge, research, and expertise from individuals and
27 organizations, including, but not limited to, parents, children,
28 youth, educators, school nurses, public officials, faith-based
29 organizations, community-based organizations, philanthropic
30 organizations, local educational agencies, colleges, universities,
31 health care providers, nonprofit organizations, welfare directors,
32 mental health directors, probation officers, and other organizations
33 and individuals as needed to inform the work. The cabinet may
34 further coordinate with these persons as needed to better coordinate
35 services for children.

36 (i) *The Bureau of State Audits may conduct a performance audit*
37 *of the cabinet established pursuant to this chapter and report its*
38 *finding to the board and the Legislature on or before January 1,*
39 *2018.*

1 96052. *This chapter shall remain in effect only until January*
2 *1, 2019, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted*
3 *statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2019, deletes or extends*
4 *that date.*

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