

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2011  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2011  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 823**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Dickinson**

February 17, 2011

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An act to add and repeal Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 96050) 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, *to the extent that nonstate moneys are made available for this purpose*, 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~~ including 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:~~

3  
4             ~~CHAPTER 2. CHILDREN'S CABINET OF CALIFORNIA~~

5  
6     ~~96050~~

7     ~~SECTION 1.~~ The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
8 following:

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

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

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

21         (1) Invest in the education and skills of our children and youth  
22 and their families.

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

26         (3) Align public resources serving children and youth and their  
27 families to support their healthy growth and development.

28         (4) Promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery  
29 by all government agencies that provide services to children and  
30 youth and their families.

31     ~~96051~~

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

3  
4             CHAPTER 2. CHILDREN'S CABINET OF CALIFORNIA

5  
6     96050. (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.

11     (b) The cabinet shall make recommendations to the Governor  
12 and the Legislature on ways to improve the delivery of services  
13 to children and youth and their families by making those services  
14 more responsive, efficient, and effective, and to support efforts to  
15 carry out those activities.

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

17     (1) The Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Secretary  
18 of California Health and Human Services, who shall serve as  
19 cochairs.

20     (2) The Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, or his  
21 or her designee.

22     (3) The Secretary of the Department of Corrections and  
23 Rehabilitation, or his or her designee.

24     (4) The Director of Social Services.

25     (5) The Director of Health Care Services.

26     (6) The State Public Health Officer.

27     (7) The Director of Mental Health.

28     (8) The Director of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

29     (9) The Director of Developmental Services.

30     (10) The Director of Child Support Services.

31     (11) Two Members of the Assembly, as appointed by the  
32 Speaker of the Assembly.

33     (12) Two Members of the Senate, as appointed by the President  
34 pro Tempore of the Senate.

35     (13) Additional members that may be appointed at the will of  
36 the Governor, include the First Spouse, the Director of Finance,  
37 the Director of the Governor's Office of Gang and Youth Violence  
38 Policy, or any other ex officio member the Governor deems  
39 necessary.

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

4 (e) The cabinet cochairs shall be responsible for all of the  
5 following:

6 (1) Commencing operation and meeting for the cabinet's  
7 organizational session by March 1, 2012. Thereafter, the cabinet  
8 shall meet no less frequently than each quarter of the fiscal year  
9 and on the call of the cochairs. Members of the cabinet shall receive  
10 no compensation for their services, except that they may be  
11 reimbursed for actual travel and related expenses in accordance  
12 with state policy.

13 (2) Appointing committees, as needed, to further the work of  
14 the cabinet to address specific issues. ~~committees~~ *Committees* shall  
15 consist of at least one cabinet member and may include members  
16 of upper level management within the agencies and departments  
17 within the state that provide services for, or have jurisdiction over  
18 the well-being of, children. Members of the committees shall  
19 receive no compensation from the state for their services, except  
20 that they may be reimbursed for actual travel and related expenses  
21 in accordance with state policy. The committees may assemble  
22 information and make recommendations to the cabinet, but shall  
23 not exercise any powers vested in the cabinet.

24 (3) Identifying at least one upper level management staff person  
25 within each department or agency serving on the cabinet who shall  
26 function as a liaison between the cabinet and the department or  
27 agency, and be a point of contact to address cross-jurisdictional  
28 issues in an efficient, effective, and expeditious manner.

29 (4) Providing recommendations to the Governor and the  
30 Legislature on a regular basis, including, but not limited to, a report  
31 to the Governor and the Legislature by October 31 of each  
32 even-numbered year, notwithstanding Section 10231.5. The report  
33 shall address priorities described in subdivisions (f) and (g), and  
34 shall be distributed to the Governor, all state agencies and  
35 departments, and the Legislature, including, but not limited to, the  
36 Assembly Committee on Accountability and Administrative  
37 Review and the Senate Committee on Governance and Finance,  
38 notwithstanding Section 9795.

39 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the priorities of the  
40 cabinet for 2012 include the following:

1 (1) Developing a plan to maximize California’s share of federal  
2 funds for programs that support California’s children and youth,  
3 including, but not limited to, recommendations on the most  
4 efficient and effective use of those funds.

5 (2) Assessing the quality, appropriateness, efficiency, and  
6 effectiveness of existing programs and services for children and  
7 youth, and, to the greatest extent possible, improving the alignment  
8 of federal, state, and local resources, including, but not limited to,  
9 the elimination or consolidation of duplicative services for children  
10 and youth and their families who would benefit from integrated  
11 services, where appropriate.

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

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

18 (2) Developing a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the shared  
19 and cohesive vision. The plan shall be centered upon a long-term  
20 commitment to children and youth issues and shall align all public  
21 resources to serve children and youth and their families in a manner  
22 that supports the healthy growth and development of children. The  
23 plan shall prepare the children and youth to be responsible citizens  
24 and productive members of the workforce. The plan shall include  
25 a continuum of services that will benefit children from prenatal  
26 care through services for youth in transition to adulthood.

27 (3) Establishing and monitoring indicators and benchmarks of  
28 child well-being, and utilizing these data for evaluation and  
29 planning. This may include, but need not be limited to, developing  
30 and implementing measurable outcomes for each state department,  
31 agency, and program that are consistent with the strategic plan.  
32 This may include establishment of a baseline measurement for  
33 each outcome and regularly reporting on the progress made toward  
34 achieving the desired outcome.

35 (4) Promoting and implementing data sharing, collaboration,  
36 increased efficiency, and improved service delivery among and  
37 within the state’s agencies, departments, and organizations that  
38 serve children and youth.

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

1 (h) In the conduct of its work pursuant to subdivisions (e), (f),  
2 and (g), the cabinet shall be informed by persons who can provide  
3 the best knowledge, research, and expertise from individuals and  
4 organizations, including, but not limited to, parents, children,  
5 youth, educators, school nurses, public officials, faith-based  
6 organizations, community-based organizations, philanthropic  
7 organizations, local educational agencies, colleges, universities,  
8 health care providers, nonprofit organizations, welfare directors,  
9 mental health directors, probation officers, and other organizations  
10 and individuals as needed to inform the work. The cabinet may  
11 further coordinate with these persons as needed to better coordinate  
12 services for children.

13 (i) The Bureau of State Audits may conduct a performance audit  
14 of the cabinet established pursuant to this chapter and report its  
15 finding to the board and the Legislature on or before January 1,  
16 2018.

17 *96051. This chapter shall be implemented only to the extent*  
18 *that nonstate moneys are available for these purposes.*

19 *96052. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January*  
20 *1, 2019, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted*  
21 *statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2019, deletes or extends*  
22 *that date.*