

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 12, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 27, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

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**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 823**

**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 sufficient federal or private funds are deposited with the state and appropriated by the Legislature, 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~~ *among* 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 California, 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, including a biennial report addressing specified priorities every odd-numbered year.~~

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 ~~(a) All state agencies and programs that touch the lives of~~
- 4 ~~children and youth and their families must work in a coordinated~~
- 5 ~~and comprehensive fashion, with an emphasis on providing a~~
- 6 ~~continuum of services that benefit children, from prenatal care~~
- 7 ~~through programs supporting successful transition to self-sufficient~~
- 8 ~~adulthood.~~
- 9 ~~(b) The Legislature, in collaboration with the Governor, intends~~
- 10 ~~to develop and implement a shared vision among the branches of~~
- 11 ~~government in order to improve child and family outcomes in this~~
- 12 ~~state.~~
- 13 ~~(c) By working collaboratively with the Governor, the~~
- 14 ~~Legislature intends to do all of the following:~~
- 15 ~~(1) Invest in the education and skills of our children and youth~~
- 16 ~~and their families.~~
- 17 ~~(2) Develop a cohesive vision and plan that ensures a long-term~~
- 18 ~~commitment to issues regarding children and youth and their~~
- 19 ~~families.~~
- 20 ~~(3) Align public resources serving children and youth and their~~
- 21 ~~families to support their healthy growth and development.~~
- 22 ~~(4) Promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery~~
- 23 ~~by all government agencies that provide services to children and~~
- 24 ~~youth and their families.~~
- 25 *(a) The foundation of human development is formed during a*
- 26 *child's earlier years, and early childhood development requires*

1 *a comprehensive, coordinated approach to a child's care and*  
2 *learning.*

3 *(b) The education and development of children occur not only*  
4 *in schools but also in families, neighborhoods, communities, and*  
5 *our broader society.*

6 *(c) The needs of children are increasingly complex and the*  
7 *networks of services available to them are managed by multiple*  
8 *agencies and departments, often with differing goals and objectives.*

9 *(d) Government programs must collaboratively develop and*  
10 *implement effective, efficient, and coordinated service delivery to*  
11 *ensure that all of California's children have an equal opportunity*  
12 *to reach their full potential.*

13 *(e) The State of California must comprehensively address the*  
14 *needs of each of its children and youth and provide the*  
15 *understanding, encouragement, support, services, and knowledge*  
16 *necessary for each of them to master the skills and competencies*  
17 *that work, life, and active citizenship require.*

18 *(f) It is critical to California's children that issues affecting*  
19 *their well-being be considered at the highest level of state*  
20 *government.*

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

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CHAPTER 2. CHILDREN'S CABINET OF CALIFORNIA

25

26 96050. (a) The Children's Cabinet of California is hereby  
27 established within state government, which shall serve as an  
28 advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration ~~and~~  
29 ~~processes of the multiple~~ among agencies that provide services to  
30 the children and youth of the state.

31 (b) The cabinet shall *advise and* make recommendations to the  
32 Governor and the Legislature on ways to improve the delivery of  
33 services to children and youth and their families ~~by making those~~  
34 ~~services more responsive, efficient, and effective, and to support~~  
35 ~~efforts to carry out those activities.~~

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

37 (1) The Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Secretary  
38 of California Health and Human Services, who shall serve as  
39 cochairs.

40 (2) The Chief Justice of California, or his or her designee.

- 1 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Corrections and
- 2 Rehabilitation, or his or her designee.
- 3 (4) The Director of Social Services.
- 4 (5) The Director of Health Care Services.
- 5 (6) The State Public Health Officer.
- 6 (7) The Director of Mental Health.
- 7 (8) The Director of Alcohol and Drug Programs.
- 8 (9) The Director of Developmental Services.
- 9 (10) The Director of Child Support Services.
- 10 (11) Two Members of the Assembly, as appointed by the
- 11 Speaker of the Assembly.
- 12 (12) Two members of the Senate, as appointed by the Senate
- 13 Committee on Rules.
- 14 (13) Additional members that may be appointed at the will of
- 15 ~~the Governor, including the First Spouse, the Director of Finance,~~
- 16 ~~or any other ex officio member the Governor deems necessary.~~
- 17 *the Governor.*
- 18 (d) Staffing of the cabinet shall be a shared responsibility among
- 19 the cochairs of the cabinet to the extent federal or private funds are
- 20 made available for this purpose.
- 21 ~~(e) The cabinet cochairs shall be responsible for all of the~~
- 22 ~~following:~~
- 23 ~~(1) Commencing operation and meeting for the cabinet's~~
- 24 ~~organizational session. Thereafter, the cabinet shall meet no less~~
- 25 ~~frequently than each quarter of the fiscal year and on the call of~~
- 26 ~~the cochairs. Members of the cabinet shall receive no compensation~~
- 27 ~~for their services, except that they may be reimbursed for actual~~
- 28 ~~travel and related expenses in accordance with state policy.~~
- 29 ~~(2) Appointing committees, as needed, to further the work of~~
- 30 ~~the cabinet to address specific issues. Committees shall consist of~~
- 31 ~~at least one cabinet member and may include members of upper~~
- 32 ~~level management within the agencies and departments within the~~
- 33 ~~state that provide services for, or have jurisdiction over the~~
- 34 ~~well-being of, children. Members of the committees shall receive~~
- 35 ~~no compensation from the state for their services, except that they~~
- 36 ~~may be reimbursed for actual travel and related expenses in~~
- 37 ~~accordance with state policy. The committees may assemble~~
- 38 ~~information and make recommendations to the cabinet, but shall~~
- 39 ~~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 serving on the cabinet who shall~~  
3 ~~function as a liaison between the cabinet and the department or~~  
4 ~~agency, and 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 priorities of the~~  
17 ~~cabinet for 2012 include the following:~~

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

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

29 ~~(g) It is the intent of the Legislature that, in addition to activities~~  
30 ~~set forth in subdivision (f), the ongoing goals of the cabinet include~~  
31 ~~all of the following:~~

32 ~~(1) Developing and implementing a shared and cohesive vision~~  
33 ~~using integrated services to improve child, youth, and family~~  
34 ~~outcomes in this state.~~

35 ~~(2) Developing a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the shared~~  
36 ~~and cohesive vision. The plan shall be centered upon a long-term~~  
37 ~~commitment to children and youth issues and shall align all public~~  
38 ~~resources to serve children and youth and their families in a manner~~  
39 ~~that supports the healthy growth and development of children. The~~  
40 ~~plan shall prepare the children and youth to be responsible citizens~~

1 and productive members of the workforce. The plan shall include  
2 a continuum of services that will benefit children from prenatal  
3 care through services for youth in transition to adulthood.

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

12 ~~(4) Promoting and implementing data sharing, collaboration,~~  
13 ~~increased efficiency, and improved service delivery among and~~  
14 ~~within the state's agencies, departments, and organizations that~~  
15 ~~serve children and youth.~~

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

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

30 *(e) (1) Upon call of the cochairs, the cabinet shall hold public*  
31 *meetings at least quarterly.*

32 *(2) The cabinet may establish committees to further its work.*  
33 *Committees shall consist of at least one cabinet member and others*  
34 *as the cabinet requires.*

35 *(3) Members of the committees shall receive no compensation*  
36 *from the state for their services, except that they may be reimbursed*  
37 *for actual travel and related expenses in accordance with state*  
38 *policy.*

39 *(4) The cabinet shall submit a report to the Governor and the*  
40 *Legislature on or before October 31, of each odd-numbered year,*

1 *notwithstanding Section 10231.5. The report shall include, but*  
2 *shall not be limited to, recommendations on ways to improve*  
3 *coordination of services to children, youth, and their families,*  
4 *including, but not limited to, all of the following:*

5 (A) *Developing and implementing a shared vision and a*  
6 *strategic plan on how best to establish cross-agency coordination.*

7 (B) *Establishing baseline goals and benchmarks for assessing*  
8 *the extent to which state agencies successfully strengthen their*  
9 *cooperation and collaboration in providing services to children,*  
10 *youth, and their families.*

11 (C) *Identifying and implementing evidence-based practices for*  
12 *the effective and efficient delivery of services.*

13 (i)

14 (f) *The Bureau of State Audits may conduct a performance audit*  
15 *of the cabinet established pursuant to this chapter and report its*  
16 *finding to the board and the Legislature on or before January 1,*  
17 *2018.*

18 96051. (a) *The Children’s Cabinet of California shall be*  
19 *established pursuant to this chapter only after a determination has*  
20 *been made by the Department of Finance that federal or private*  
21 *funds in an amount sufficient to fully support the activities of the*  
22 *cabinet, including staffing of the cabinet and development and*  
23 *distribution of the biennial report, have been deposited with the*  
24 *state.*

25 (b) *Upon a determination by the Department of Finance that*  
26 *there are sufficient federal or private funds to fully support the*  
27 *activities of the cabinet as described in subdivision (a), the funds*  
28 *shall be made available to the cabinet for the purposes described*  
29 *in this chapter upon appropriation by the Legislature.*

30 (c) *Upon making a determination that sufficient funds have been*  
31 *deposited pursuant to this section, the Department of Finance shall*  
32 *file a written notice to that effect with the Chief Clerk of the*  
33 *Assembly and the Secretary of the Senate.*

34 96052. *This chapter shall remain in effect only until January*  
35 *1, 2019, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted*  
36 *statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2019, deletes or extends*  
37 *that date.*