

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 25, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2547

**Introduced by Assembly Member Blumenfield
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Hall)**

February 24, 2012

An act to add Chapter 7.3 (commencing with Section 18420) to Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2547, as amended, Blumenfield. Homeless youth: Statewide Office of the Homeless Youth Advocate.

Under existing law, several state agencies have prescribed responsibilities relating to homeless youth. Existing law requires the California Emergency Management Agency to administer a program to provide shelter and other services to runaway and nonrunaway youth and their families.

This bill would establish the Statewide Office of the Homeless Youth Advocate in the California Health and Human Services Agency. This bill would require the office, among other things, to provide information and assistance to reduce the provision of overlapping services to, identify obstacles to the provision of services to, make recommendations to remove those obstacles and improve the quality of services provided to, and ~~obtain~~ *update* and disseminate information *received* from service providers relating to services available for, homeless youth. ~~This bill would require these provisions to be implemented only after the Director~~

~~of Finance determines that federal, state, or private funds in an amount sufficient to support the activities of the office have been deposited with the state, and would provide that it is the intent of the Legislature that these provisions become inoperative if the Director of Finance determines there are insufficient funds to support the activities of the office.~~

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 7.3 (commencing with Section 18420)
2 is added to Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions
3 Code, to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 7.3. STATEWIDE OFFICE OF THE HOMELESS YOUTH
6 ADVOCATE
7

8 18420. (a) The Statewide Office of the Homeless Youth
9 Advocate is established within the California Health and Human
10 Services Agency, and shall report directly to the Secretary of
11 California Health and Human Services. The Statewide Office of
12 the Homeless Youth Advocate shall seek to do all of the following:

13 (1) Coordinate current services, and facilitate interagency
14 collaboration to identify gaps in, remove barriers and improve
15 access to, and share, information related to homeless youth.

16 (2) Identify and remove obstacles to the provision of services
17 to homeless youth.

18 (3) Improve the quality of services that are provided to homeless
19 youth.

20 (4) Reduce needless expenditures that are caused by the
21 provision of overlapping services.

22 (5) Identify housing and supportive services funding resources
23 that are available to entities serving homeless youth.

24 (b) The Statewide Office of the Homeless Youth Advocate is
25 strongly encouraged to work with other departments within the
26 California Health and Human Services Agency, the State
27 Department of Education, the Administrative Office of the Courts,
28 nonprofit organizations, appropriate departments of the federal

1 government, and other key stakeholders when performing the
2 functions described in subdivision (a).

3 (c) The Statewide Office of the Homeless Youth Advocate shall
4 have all of, but not be limited to, the following responsibilities:

5 (1) Provide information, coordination assistance, and technical
6 assistance as necessary to reduce needless expenditures that are
7 associated with the provision of overlapping ~~services~~; *services* and
8 ~~to~~ improve the quality of services provided to homeless youth.

9 (2) Identify both procedural and substantive obstacles to the
10 provision of services to homeless youth; and make
11 recommendations to the entities specified in this section relating
12 to the procedural, regulatory, or statutory changes that are necessary
13 to remove obstacles to the provision of services to homeless youth.

14 (3) ~~Obtain~~ *Update* information *received* from service providers
15 relating to services that are known to be available to the homeless
16 youth population in the state; and post the information on its
17 Internet Web site.

18 (4) ~~Develop, maintain, and disseminate~~ *Make available on its*
19 *Internet Web site* information that is relevant to the homeless youth
20 population, including, but not limited to, information relating to
21 the legal, educational, and other rights of homeless youth, and a
22 list of legal, educational, and victim's rights organizations that
23 serve the homeless youth population.

24 (5) Obtain information relating to funding sources that are
25 known to be available to assist the homeless youth population in
26 the state.

27 (6) Work with entities to identify issues relating to the sharing
28 of information when providing services to homeless ~~youth~~; *youth*
29 and ~~to~~ facilitate resolution of information-sharing issues.

30 (7) Prepare and submit ~~an annual~~ *a biennial* report, beginning
31 on the date that is ~~one year~~ *two years* after this section is
32 implemented pursuant to subdivision (e), to the Governor and the
33 Legislature regarding the activities and performance of the
34 Statewide Office of the Homeless Youth Advocate. The report
35 shall also include the following information:

36 (A) The data that the State Department of Education annually
37 compiles on the number of homeless youth who are enrolled in
38 public schools in the state, the types of homelessness experienced
39 by the youth, and a list of services that are provided to the homeless
40 youth.

1 (B) The data that the United States Department of Housing and
2 Urban Development annually publishes on the federally mandated
3 point-in-time count of the homeless population, which includes
4 homeless youth.

5 (d) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 (1) "Entity" means a state agency, a state-operated program, or
7 a nonprofit community-based organization.

8 (2) "Homeless youth" means a homeless youth as defined in
9 paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Section 11139.3 of the
10 Government Code.

11 ~~(e) This section shall be implemented only if the Director of~~
12 ~~Finance makes a determination that federal, state, or private funds~~
13 ~~in an amount sufficient to fully support the activities of this section,~~
14 ~~including staffing the Statewide Office of the Homeless Youth~~
15 ~~Advocate, have been deposited with the state for the purposes of~~
16 ~~this section. If the Director of Finance makes a determination that~~
17 ~~sufficient funds have or have not been deposited with the state for~~
18 ~~the purposes of this section, the director shall execute a declaration~~
19 ~~stating that the determination has been made. The declaration~~
20 ~~executed pursuant to this subdivision shall be retained by the~~
21 ~~director, and, within five working days of the execution of the~~
22 ~~declaration, a copy shall be provided to the fiscal and appropriate~~
23 ~~policy committees of the Legislature, the Secretary of State, the~~
24 ~~Secretary of the Senate, the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, and the~~
25 ~~Legislative Counsel, and posted on the Internet Web site of the~~
26 ~~Department of Finance.~~

27 ~~(f) Pursuant to subdivision (e), if the Director of Finance~~
28 ~~determines that insufficient funds have been deposited with the~~
29 ~~state to support the activities of this section, this section shall~~
30 ~~become inoperative.~~

31 ~~(g)~~

32 (e) (1) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under
33 paragraph (7) of subdivision (c) is inoperative on the date that is
34 four years after the date the first report is submitted, pursuant to
35 Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

36 (2) A report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (7) of
37 subdivision (c) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795
38 of the Government Code.

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