

Introduced by Senator Correa

February 17, 2011

An act to add Section 95016.5 to the Government Code, relating to children's services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 472, as introduced, Correa. Early intervention services: assessments.

Existing law, the California Early Intervention Services Act, is administered jointly by the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the State Department of Developmental Services as the lead agency responsible for administration and coordination of the statewide system of services for the enhancement of the development of children who have disabilities or who are at risk of having disabilities and to minimize the potential for delays in their development. Under existing law, these provisions are in effect only until the state terminates its participation in prescribed components of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

This bill would require the secretary and the superintendent to develop either an integrated assessment instrument or a process to consolidate assessments to be used to coordinate multiple agency assessments, and to report to the Legislature by January 1, 2013.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 95016.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

95016.5. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Children receiving special education and related services are often clients of a regional center, of the California Children's Services program, and recipients of county health or mental health services.

(2) Each organization may require separate assessments annually and may require parents to provide the same information multiple times on separate required forms.

(3) Multiple assessments can be a burden on families and children who must find the time and resources to travel to several different locations each year for multiple assessments.

(b) With the goal of finding ways to consolidate assessments and the attendant paperwork, the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or their designees, shall develop either of the following to be used to coordinate multiple agency assessments:

(1) An integrated assessment instrument that can be performed in one place at one time each year and that will serve the assessment needs of all service agencies.

(2) A process whereby the several assessments can be conducted in one place and time.

(c) The integrated assessment instrument or process shall initially focus on infants and toddlers; however, it shall be flexible enough to continue to serve as an instrument or process to coordinate assessments for needed services as the child continues to age.

(d) The secretary and superintendent shall complete this work by January 1, 2013, and shall report to the Legislature at that time.