

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 27, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1252

Introduced by Senator Torres

February 20, 2014

An act to amend Section 11403.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1252, as amended, Torres. Public social services: former foster youth: transitional housing.

Existing law makes transitional housing available to any former foster youth who is at least 18 years of age and not more than 24 years of age who has exited from the foster care system and has elected to participate in the Transitional Housing Program-Plus, as defined, if he or she has not received services pursuant to these provisions for more than 24 months.

This bill would *authorize a county to, at its option*, extend transitional housing pursuant to the above provisions to a former foster youth who is not more than 25 years of age, and for a total of 36 cumulative months, if the former foster youth is completing secondary education or is enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 11403.2 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is amended to read:

3 11403.2. (a) The following persons shall be eligible for
4 transitional housing provided pursuant to Article 4 (commencing
5 with Section 16522) of Chapter 5 of Part 4:

6 (1) Any foster child at least 16 years of age and not more than
7 18 years of age, and, on or after January 1, 2012, any nonminor
8 dependent, as defined in subdivision (v) of Section 11400, who is
9 eligible for AFDC-FC benefits as described in Section 11401. A
10 foster child under 18 years of age shall be eligible for placement
11 in the program certified as a “Transitional Housing Placement
12 Program,” pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section
13 16522.1. A nonminor dependent shall be eligible for placement in
14 the program certified as a “Transitional Housing Placement-Plus
15 Foster Care Program” pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a)
16 of Section 16522.1.

17 (2) (A) Any former foster youth at least 18 years of age and,
18 except as provided in subparagraph (B), not more than 24 years
19 of age who has exited from the foster care system on or after his
20 or her 18th birthday and elects to participate in Transitional
21 Housing Program-Plus, as defined in subdivision (s) of Section
22 11400, if he or she has not received services under this paragraph
23 for more than a total of 24 months, whether or not consecutive. If
24 the person participating in a Transitional Housing Program-Plus
25 is not receiving aid under Section 11403.1, he or she, as a condition
26 of participation, shall enter into, and execute the provisions of, a
27 transitional independent living plan that shall be mutually agreed
28 upon, and annually reviewed, by the former foster youth and the
29 applicable county welfare or probation department or independent
30 living program coordinator. The person participating under this
31 paragraph shall inform the county of any changes to conditions
32 specified in the agreed-upon plan that affect eligibility, including
33 changes in address, living circumstances, and the educational or
34 training program.

35 ~~(B) Services provided under subparagraph (A) may be extended~~
36 *A county may, at its option, extend the services provided under*
37 *subparagraph (A) to a former foster youth not more than 25 years*
38 *of age, and for a total of 36 months, whether or not consecutive,*

1 if the former foster youth, in addition to the requirements specified
2 in subparagraph (A), meets either of the following criteria:

3 (i) The former foster youth is completing secondary education
4 or a program leading to an equivalent credential.

5 (ii) The former foster youth is enrolled in an institution that
6 provides postsecondary vocational education.

7 (b) Payment on behalf of an eligible person receiving transitional
8 housing services pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) shall
9 be made to the transitional housing placement provider pursuant
10 to the conditions and limitations set forth in Section 11403.3.
11 Notwithstanding Section 11403.3, the department, in consultation
12 with concerned stakeholders, including, but not limited to,
13 representatives of the Legislature, the County Welfare Directors
14 ~~Association~~, *Association of California*, the Chief Probation Officers
15 of California, the Judicial Council, representatives of Indian tribes,
16 the California Youth Connection, former foster youth, child
17 advocacy organizations, labor organizations, juvenile justice
18 advocacy organizations, foster caregiver organizations, researchers,
19 and transitional housing placement providers, shall convene a
20 workgroup to establish a new rate structure for the Title IV-E
21 funded ~~THP-Plus-Foster~~ *THP-Plus Foster* Care placement option
22 for nonminor dependents. The workgroup shall also consider
23 application of this new rate structure to the Transitional Housing
24 Program-Plus, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of
25 Section 11403.3. In developing the new rate structure pursuant to
26 this subdivision, the department shall consider the average rates
27 in effect and being paid by counties to current transitional housing
28 placement providers.

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