

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 427**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Weber**

February 19, 2015

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An act to ~~amend Section 8970 of~~ *add Section 8209.5 to* the Education Code, relating to early childhood education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 427, as amended, Weber. Early primary ~~programs~~: *programs: child care services: eligibility: military families.*

*The Child Care and Development Services Act has a purpose of providing a comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective system of child care and development services for children from infancy to 13 years of age and their parents, including a full range of supervision, health, and support services through full- and part-time programs.*

*This bill would exclude from income the amount of the basic allowance for housing provided to an individual who is on federal active duty, state active duty, active duty for special work, or Active Guard and Reserve duty in the military that is equal to the lowest rate of the allowance for the military housing area in which the individual resides for purposes of determining eligibility for child care and development services.*

~~Existing law provides various legislative declarations concerning early primary programs, including, among others, that it is the Legislature's intent that school districts that establish an early primary program coordinate that program, whenever possible, with the Demonstration in Restructuring of Public Education program and, where~~

applicable, with the county interagency children’s services coordinating council.

~~This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.~~

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

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*  
2 *following:*

3 (1) *California is home to a large number of military personnel,*  
4 *including 150,000 active duty personnel.*

5 (2) *Military families are a unique population with unique*  
6 *circumstances. The children of military families face constant*  
7 *transition, including family mobility and parental deployment.*

8 (3) *Military families move more than twice as often as civilian*  
9 *families. Forty percent of officers and 60 percent of enlisted*  
10 *personnel move during the school year. Thus, the lower the rank*  
11 *of the military family member, the more often the family moves.*

12 (4) *During a time of war, military families endure the strains*  
13 *of long-term separation as one or both parents may be deployed*  
14 *overseas.*

15 (5) *During parental deployment children are often anxious,*  
16 *stressed, and confused. Child care providers and preschools can*  
17 *be places where stability and routine can provide security. The*  
18 *routine helps to cushion the impact of parental deployment.*

19 (6) *Early education can be a determining factor in the early*  
20 *academic success of a pupil from a military family by providing*  
21 *educational enrichment, as well as a stable and nurturing learning*  
22 *environment.*

23 (b) *Given these special circumstances, it is the intent of the*  
24 *Legislature in enacting this act to ensure that military families*  
25 *have access to the child care development services that their*  
26 *children need.*

27 SEC. 2. *Section 8209.5 is added to the Education Code, to*  
28 *read:*

29 8209.5. *For purposes of determining eligibility for services*  
30 *offered pursuant to this chapter, the income of an individual who*  
31 *is on federal active duty, state active duty, active duty for special*  
32 *work, or Active Guard and Reserve duty in the military shall not*

1 *include the amount of the basic allowance for housing pursuant*  
2 *to Section 403 of Title 37 of the United States Code provided to*  
3 *the individual that is equal to the lowest rate of the allowance for*  
4 *the military housing area in which the individual resides.*

5 SECTION 1. Section 8970 of the Education Code is amended  
6 to read:

7 8970. ~~The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the~~  
8 ~~following:~~

9 (a) ~~The Superintendent convened a Task Force on School~~  
10 ~~Readiness that prepared a report that included the following~~  
11 ~~findings and recommendations:~~

12 (1) ~~Preschool and kindergarten programs have become more~~  
13 ~~academically oriented with an emphasis on paper and pencil “seat~~  
14 ~~work” and a decreased emphasis on other essential age-appropriate~~  
15 ~~curricular elements such as language development; familiarity~~  
16 ~~with stories, music, and oral language experiences; artistic~~  
17 ~~exploration; social interaction; and large muscle development.~~

18 (2) ~~Assessment tests of questionable validity and reliability are~~  
19 ~~being used to delay children’s entrance to kindergarten or to place~~  
20 ~~them in a two-year kindergarten.~~

21 (3) ~~An appropriate, integrated experiential curriculum should~~  
22 ~~be provided for children in preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1~~  
23 ~~to 3, inclusive.~~

24 (4) ~~Programs should meet the special needs of our culturally~~  
25 ~~and linguistically diverse pupils as well as the needs of exceptional~~  
26 ~~children.~~

27 (5) ~~Classroom organization and teaching methods should reflect~~  
28 ~~the heterogeneous skills and abilities of children in early primary~~  
29 ~~programs.~~

30 (6) ~~School districts should be encouraged to develop~~  
31 ~~communication about linkages between programs for~~  
32 ~~four-year-olds, early primary programs, and the primary and~~  
33 ~~intermediate grades of elementary schools.~~

34 (7) ~~The staff of early primary programs should receive~~  
35 ~~appropriate education, training, and remuneration.~~

36 (8) ~~Programs should be offered full-day and also should provide~~  
37 ~~before- and after-school care.~~

38 (9) ~~Assessment methods of children in early primary programs~~  
39 ~~should be drastically altered.~~

40 (10) ~~Parental involvement should be encouraged.~~

1 (11) A public awareness campaign should be launched  
2 describing appropriate learning practices for children in preschool,  
3 kindergarten, and grades 1 to 3, inclusive.

4 (b) The Superintendent issued a Triennial Report on Publicly  
5 Funded Child Development Programs that documents the  
6 increasing numbers of low-income families eligible but unserved  
7 by limited preschool and child care funds, and that presents policy  
8 implications for staffing and funding issues.

9 (c) National studies show future benefits of early intervention  
10 programs to society and immediate advantages to California  
11 employers in the form of reduced absenteeism, improved worker  
12 morale, and increased productivity.

13 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that activities initiated as  
14 a result of this chapter shall continue without regard to fiscal year  
15 depending, when necessary, on continued funding.

16 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that school districts that  
17 establish an early primary program coordinate that program,  
18 whenever possible, with the Demonstration of Restructuring in  
19 Public Education program, established pursuant to Chapter 9  
20 (commencing with Section 58900) of Part 31 and, where  
21 applicable, with the county interagency children's services  
22 coordination council, established pursuant to Article 2  
23 (commencing with Section 18986.10) of Chapter 12.8 of Part 6 of  
24 Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

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