

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1984**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Linder**

February 16, 2016

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An act to add *and repeal* Section 16007 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster youth.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1984, as amended, Linder. Foster youth: enrichment activities.

Existing law provides that it is the policy of the state that all minors and nonminors in foster care have specified rights, including, among others, the right to attend school and participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities, consistent with the child's age and developmental level, with minimal disruptions to school attendance and educational stability.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services, ~~on or before May 1, 2017, and after consultation with a workgroup composed of individuals and groups that represent the interests of foster youth, to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee that outlines a program to provide grants to foster youth to enable the foster youth to participate in enrichment activities. The bill would require the report to address, among other things, the criteria and review process for youth to submit applications for grants for enrichment activities. The bill would require the department, on or before July 1, 2017, an upon appropriation by the Legislature, to implement the program outlined in the report. on or before March 1, 2017, to convene a workgroup and would require the workgroup to develop an implementation plan for the California Foster Youth Enrichment Grant~~

*Program. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2018, upon appropriation by the Legislature and in consideration of the implementation plan, to establish that program in order to provide grants of \$500 or less to qualified foster youth to enable the foster youth to participate in activities that enhance the foster youth's skills, abilities, self-esteem, or overall well-being. The bill would specify eligibility criteria for receipt of a grant and the authorized uses of a grant. The bill would require a recipient, within 6 months after receipt of a grant, to submit documentation that describes how the grant was used and the actual cost, supported by copies of receipts, of the program, product, or service, and directly related costs, purchased with the grant. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2021, to submit a report to the Legislature the addresses, among other things, data on the number of applications received and the number of grants awarded. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2022.*

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. Section 16007 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:
- 3 16007. (a) (1) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 4 following:
- 5 (A) California foster youth face many challenges. Approximately
- 6 three-fourths of youth in foster care have spent two or more years
- 7 in the system between birth and 12th grade. While in foster care,
- 8 about 70 percent of youth had three or more placements. Less than
- 9 half of *all* foster youth complete high school.
- 10 (B) Although the state has seen a reduction in the number of
- 11 children in foster care and a decreased reliance on group homes,
- 12 it continues to struggle to find stable, fulfilling families for
- 13 children.
- 14 (C) Participating in enrichment activities, including, but not
- 15 limited to, sports leagues, camps, college preparation courses, arts,
- 16 music, and formative social experiences, can greatly contribute to
- 17 a foster youth's sense of normalcy and increase the likelihood of
- 18 a successful transition to adulthood.
- 19 (2) The purpose of this section is ~~to create a program~~ *to establish*
- 20 *the California Foster Youth Enrichment Grant Program, which*

1 *will provide grants to foster youth to participate in enrichment*  
2 *activities and provide for the program's transition from public*  
3 *funding and control to private funding and control. activities that*  
4 *enhance their skills, abilities, self-esteem, or overall well-being.*

5 (b) On or before ~~February~~ March 1, 2017, the State Department  
6 of Social Services shall convene a workgroup composed of  
7 individuals and groups that represent the interests of foster youth.  
8 *The workgroup shall develop an implementation plan to maximize*  
9 *the California Foster Youth Enrichment Grant Program's impact.*

10 (e) ~~On or before May 1, 2017, the State Department of Social~~  
11 ~~Services, after consultation with the workgroup established~~  
12 ~~pursuant to subdivision (b), shall submit a report to the Joint~~  
13 ~~Legislative Budget Committee that outlines a program to provide~~  
14 ~~grants to foster youth to enable the foster youth to participate in~~  
15 ~~enrichment activities. The report shall address, at a minimum, all~~  
16 ~~of the following:~~

17 (1) ~~The nonprofit organization that will receive the funds~~  
18 ~~appropriated for the program and serve as administrator of the~~  
19 ~~program.~~

20 (2) ~~The criteria and review process for youth to submit~~  
21 ~~applications for grants for enrichment activities, including a list~~  
22 ~~of preapproved categories of enrichment activities.~~

23 (3) ~~The maximum amount of the grant.~~

24 (4) ~~The means by which grants will be disbursed.~~

25 (5) ~~A plan to transition the program from public funding to~~  
26 ~~private funding and control.~~

27 (d) ~~On or before July 1, 2017, upon an appropriation by the~~  
28 ~~Legislature, the State Department of Social Services shall~~  
29 ~~implement the program, as outlined in the report.~~

30 (c) *On or before January 1, 2018, upon appropriation by the*  
31 *Legislature and in consideration of the plan developed pursuant*  
32 *to subdivision (b), the State Department of Social Services shall*  
33 *establish the California Foster Youth Enrichment Grant Program*  
34 *to provide grants to qualified foster youth to enable the foster*  
35 *youth to participate in activities that enhance the foster youth's*  
36 *skills, abilities, self-esteem, or overall well-being.*

37 (d) *Grant applicants shall meet all of the following criteria*  
38 *immediately prior to approval of a grant:*

39 (1) *Be a California foster youth between six years of age and*  
40 *17 years of age, inclusive, or a California nonminor dependent.*

1     (2) *Be placed in a foster family home, certified family home, or*  
2 *group home.*

3     (3) *Be enrolled in a California school.*

4     (e) (1) *Grants awarded under this section shall be five hundred*  
5 *dollars (\$500) or less and shall be used to fund a program, service,*  
6 *or product, and any directly related costs, that provide any of the*  
7 *following to a foster youth:*

8     (A) *Skill development, including, but not limited to, lessons in*  
9 *music, dance, or drama, and the rental or purchase of equipment*  
10 *needed to further skill development.*

11     (B) *Academic or school-related assistance, including, but not*  
12 *limited to, school trips, college campus visits, Advanced Placement*  
13 *or International Baccalaureate exam fees, test preparation courses*  
14 *or materials, and books.*

15     (C) *Recreational or social participation, including, but not*  
16 *limited to, summer camp attendance, sports league participation,*  
17 *school-sponsored formal dance attendance, and participation in*  
18 *school graduation activities.*

19     (2) *Grants shall not be awarded to fund any activity that does*  
20 *not directly contribute to the enhancement of an individual foster*  
21 *youth's skills, abilities, self-esteem, or overall well-being,*  
22 *including, but not limited to, either of the following:*

23     (A) *Child care expenses for the foster youth or his or her child.*

24     (B) *A vacation with the foster youth's foster family.*

25     (f) *Applications for grants under this section shall be on forms*  
26 *developed by the department, and shall include, at a minimum, all*  
27 *of the following:*

28     (1) *Evidence that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria*  
29 *specified in subdivision (d).*

30     (2) *A description of the need for and proposed use of the grant,*  
31 *the anticipated cost of the program, product, or service, and*  
32 *directly related costs, and the projected benefit to the foster youth.*

33     (3) *Any other information that the department determines is*  
34 *necessary to further the intent of this section.*

35     (g) *Within six months after a grant is awarded, the recipient*  
36 *shall submit documentation, on forms developed by the department,*  
37 *that describes how the grant was used and the actual cost,*  
38 *supported by copies of receipts, of the program, product, or service,*  
39 *and directly related costs, purchased with the grant. A foster youth*

1 *shall not be eligible for a subsequent grant until this documentation*  
2 *is received.*

3 *(h) (1) On or before January 1, 2021, the department shall*  
4 *submit a report to the Legislature that addresses, at a minimum,*  
5 *all of the following:*

6 *(A) Data on the number of applications received, aggregated*  
7 *by year.*

8 *(B) Data on the number of grants awarded, aggregated by year.*

9 *(C) Data on the programs, products, or services, and directly*  
10 *related costs, the grants were used to fund, aggregated by year.*

11 *(D) A description of the documentation a recipient is required*  
12 *to submit pursuant to subdivision (g).*

13 *(E) Data on the number of recipients who provided the*  
14 *documentation required pursuant to subdivision (g) and who did*  
15 *not provide the documentation required by subdivision (g),*  
16 *aggregated by year.*

17 *(2) The report required pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be*  
18 *submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government*  
19 *Code.*

20 *(i) It is the intent of the Legislature that the department explore*  
21 *the feasibility of transitioning the program to private funding and*  
22 *control.*

23 *(j) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2022,*  
24 *and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that*  
25 *is enacted before January 1, 2022, deletes or extends that date.*