

## Assembly Bill No. 1784

### CHAPTER 866

An act to add Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11759) to Part 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to substance abuse.

[Approved by Governor September 26, 1998. Filed  
with Secretary of State September 28, 1998.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1784, Baca. Alcohol and drug treatment for adolescents.

Existing law imposes various functions and duties on the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs with respect to the administration of programs for the treatment of substance abuse.

This bill would enact the Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Recovery Program Act of 1998, which would require the department, in collaboration with counties and providers of alcohol and drug services, to establish community-based nonresidential and residential recovery programs to intervene and treat the problems of alcohol and drugs among youth, to establish criteria for participation, programmatic requirements, and terms and conditions for funding, and to report to the Legislature during budget hearings regarding the status of the implementation of these provisions.

This bill would further specify that funding for these provisions has been made to the department by the Budget Act of 1998.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) California families are confronted with challenging problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse. Families are in desperate need for assistance in the management and treatment of this adolescent and youth problem.

(b) In California, the primary strategy for challenging adolescents and drug problems has been placed on the California Youth Authority, probation departments, and other law enforcement related agencies.

(c) According to the recent report by the Drug Strategies Inc., an organization that examines and reports approaches to drug law enforcement, many police officers have concluded that heavy reliance on the criminal justice system to solve the nation's drug problems is simply not working. Sixty percent of police chiefs say law enforcement efforts to reduce drug abuse are unsuccessful,

according to a nationwide 1996 Peter D. Hart Research Associates poll; nearly half called for a fundamental overhaul of how we deal with the drug problem.

(d) The nation's chiefs of police and the American public agree that drug abuse is a major problem that is growing worse. In a 1996 poll, 6 to 10 police chiefs reported that drug abuse was the most serious problem facing their communities; more serious than domestic violence, property crime, or violent crime. In a survey a year earlier, over half of Americans reported concern about drug use among young people and the violence associated with drug trafficking. Two-thirds of police chiefs and the American public believe the drug problem has grown worse over the past five years.

(e) Perceptions of drug abuse exist despite significant government spending on drug control efforts. From 1981 to 1997, the federal government spent nearly sixty billion dollars (\$60,000,000,000) on domestic drug law enforcement. Federal expenditures for domestic drug law enforcement during the years of 1991 to 1995, inclusive, were eight times larger than expenditures from the years of 1981 to 1985, inclusive. Despite these budget increases, the drug problem persists.

(f) Arrests for drug offenses (possession or sales) have risen sharply in recent years, climbing from 460,224 in 1980, to 1,167,600 in 1995.

(g) Since 1991, drug use has climbed sharply among junior high and high school students, according to the annual survey, "Monitoring the Future". Increases have been most dramatic among the youngest teens. In the past five years, drug use has more than doubled among 8th- and 10th-graders.

(h) Results from the most recent National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, reported in August 1997, suggest that these trends may be changing; in 1996, young people ages 12 through 17, reported slight declines in drug use. However, epidemiologists are cautious about interpreting the newest data since the statistically significant differences between rates of drug use in 1995 and 1996 are very small.

(i) Information from other sources, including the new "Monitoring the Future" survey, which will be released in December 1997, will be needed to determine whether teen drug use is in fact declining. Rising teen drug use has been accompanied by increasing drug arrests among juveniles. From 1991 to 1995, juvenile drug law violations (possession or sale) more than doubled. The nationwide Drug Use Forecasting system (DUF) reports that in 1996, more than half of arrested juveniles tested positive for drugs at the time of arrest, compared to less than one-fifth five years ago.

(j) This act recognizes that federal, state, and local drug control spending assigns low priority to treatment and prevention of substance abuse, and recognized the extensive research that



confirms that treatment is the most cost-effective way to combat drug abuse and drug-related crimes.

(k) The 1994 Rand Study found that thirty-four million dollars (\$34,000,000) invested in treatment would reduce cocaine use as much as an expenditure of two hundred forty-six million dollars (\$246,000,000) for law enforcement or three hundred sixty-six million dollars (\$366,000,000) for interdiction.

SEC. 2. Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11759) is added to Part 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

CHAPTER 4. ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT FOR ADOLESCENTS

11759. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Recovery Program Act of 1998.

11759.1. The department, in collaboration with counties and providers of alcohol and drug services, shall establish community-based nonresidential and residential recovery programs to intervene and treat the problems of alcohol and drugs among youth.

11759.2. The department, in collaboration with counties and providers of alcohol and drug services, shall establish criteria for participation, programmatic requirements, and terms and conditions for funding. These criteria shall include, but not be limited to, local match requirements of 10 percent, either in-kind or in cash. The criteria shall also include consideration of indicators of drug and alcohol use among youth so that funds are targeted to localities with the highest need.

11759.3. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude regional approaches to service delivery by counties, including the utilization of community-based nonresidential and residential programs.

11759.4. The department, in collaboration with the counties and providers of alcohol and drug services, shall report to the Legislature during budget hearings regarding the status of the implementation of this chapter.

11759.5. (a) Funding for this chapter has been made to the department pursuant to Schedule (a) of Item 4200-101-0001 of the Budget Act of 1998 (Ch. 324, Stats. 1998).

(b) Of the amount appropriated to the department pursuant to subdivision (a), the department may expend up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for purposes of developing standards and procedures to implement this chapter.

