

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 235

Introduced by Assembly Member Kuehl and Senator Schiff

(Coauthor: Senator Johnston)

**(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Honda, Jackson,
and Washington)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aroner, Cardoza, Keeley,
Knox, Longville, Machado, Mazzoni, Romero, Steinberg,
Strom-Martin, and Wildman)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Alpert, Hughes, Johnston, Karnette,
and Solis)**

January 28, 1999

An act to add Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 2050) to Division 2.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to youth.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 235, as amended, Kuehl. California Youth Violence Prevention Authority.

Under existing law, all state agencies are required to cooperate with the Department of the Youth Authority in order to bring about a statewide program for reduction and prevention of crime and delinquency. Existing law requires the State Commission on Juvenile Justice, Crime and Delinquency Prevention to advise the Director of the Youth Authority on matters relating to crime and delinquency prevention.

This bill would create the California Youth Violence Prevention Authority within the office of the Attorney General. The authority would be given duties and responsibilities related to the prevention of youth violence, including the production of a statewide plan for the augmentation, allocation, and coordination of youth violence prevention programs and resources, for presentation to the Legislature by January 1, 2001, to be known as the California Youth Violence Prevention and Coordination Plan. The duties and responsibilities of the authority would include administering a violence prevention grant program with available funds, as specified. The bill would provide for an advisory committee, as specified, to assist the authority, and would also create the state Violence Prevention Fund in the State Treasury. This bill would specify that funding for the authority shall be provided in the Budget Act of 2000, as specified.

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. Chapter 3 (commencing with Section
2 2050) is added to Division 2.5 of the Welfare and
3 Institutions Code, to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 3. CALIFORNIA YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION
6 ACT
7

8 2050. This chapter shall be known and may be cited
9 as the California Youth Violence Prevention Act.

10 2051. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
11 following:

12 (a) Violence is a leading cause of injury and death
13 among young Californians, and it must be recognized as
14 a major public health concern.

15 (b) California must take steps to prevent shootings
16 and other senseless acts of violence committed by
17 children experiencing anger, distress, or other problems.



1 (c) Despite recent declines in the rate of arrests of
2 juveniles for crimes of violence, statewide victimization
3 and arrest rates of juveniles and young adults for acts
4 involving violence remain unacceptably high.

5 (d) The resources and responses of the California
6 juvenile and criminal justice systems are inadequate to
7 control and prevent violence at its developmental stages
8 among children, youth, and families.

9 (e) California has no comprehensive youth violence
10 prevention plan or strategy.

11 (f) State-funded violence prevention programs are
12 scattered among 10 or more state agencies without
13 adequate coordination of effort. Both the Little Hoover
14 Commission and the Task Force to Review Juvenile
15 Crime and the Juvenile Justice Response have
16 recommended that youth crime and violence prevention
17 programs be consolidated for greater effectiveness
18 within a single state agency.

19 (g) The California Attorney General has determined
20 that the long-term health of our society depends on a new
21 approach to community-building, with an increased
22 emphasis on prevention, community involvement, and
23 collaboration.

24 (h) Local communities need assistance, including
25 economic assistance, to implement effective strategies
26 and programs for the prevention of violence among
27 youth.

28 (i) Model, innovative, and successful violence
29 prevention programs must be identified, implemented,
30 and evaluated in California.

31 (j) State leadership and improved public agency
32 collaboration are needed to assist citizens, communities,
33 and local governments in their efforts to prevent youth
34 violence.

35 (k) *It is the intent of the Legislature that the Youth
36 Violence Prevention Authority be designed to achieve
37 greater efficiency in state government, and that, in a
38 manner consistent with the plan described in Section
39 2053, violence prevention programs which can be more
40 efficiently administered under a single agency be merged*



1 *with the authority or into another designated agency*
2 *within one year of issuance of the plan. It is also the intent*
3 *of the Legislature, if no consolidation or more efficient*
4 *coordination of existing programs is recommended by the*
5 *authority, to repeal this chapter no later than one year*
6 *after the authority issues the statewide plan.*

7 2052. (a) The California Youth Violence Prevention
8 Authority is hereby created within the office of the
9 Attorney General.

10 (b) The duties and responsibilities of the authority
11 shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

12 (1) Providing statewide leadership and coordinating
13 state and local efforts to prevent violence among youth.

14 (2) Assisting local communities, cities, and counties in
15 their efforts to implement effective programs and
16 strategies for the prevention of youth violence.

17 (3) Seeking, receiving, and administering grants and
18 funds from public and private sources for violence
19 prevention efforts and programs.

20 (4) Providing public education on effective programs,
21 models, and strategies for the control of violence and
22 serving as a clearinghouse for information on youth
23 violence prevention issues, programs, resources, and
24 research.

25 (5) Providing training and technical assistance to help
26 build the capacity of organizations, communities, and
27 local government to develop, implement, and evaluate
28 violence prevention programs.

29 (6) Promoting and advocating at all levels of
30 government effective community programs and
31 responses, supported by adequate resources, for the
32 prevention of violence among children, youth, and
33 families in California.

34 2053. (a) The authority shall produce a statewide
35 plan for the augmentation, allocation, and coordination of
36 youth violence prevention programs and resources. The
37 plan shall be developed with the cooperation and
38 approval of the advisory board described in Section 2054
39 and shall be known as the California Youth Violence
40 Prevention and Coordination Plan. The plan shall include



1 recommendations for the coordination or consolidation of
2 violence prevention funds and programs which are
3 presently administered by different state agencies. The
4 plan shall also include recommendations for the
5 augmentation, implementation, and evaluation of
6 state-funded youth violence prevention programs. The
7 plan shall also address other factors related to the
8 problem of youth violence in California, including, but
9 not limited to, the following:

10 (1) Recent state and national research on the
11 effectiveness and cost effectiveness of violence
12 prevention programs and strategies being implemented
13 in California and in other states.

14 (2) The relationship of projected growth in
15 California's youth population to the need for additional
16 youth violence prevention resources and programs.

17 (3) The need for a stable and continuing source of
18 funds to maintain a state and local network of effective
19 youth violence prevention programs and strategies.

20 (4) Firearm control policies and their relationship to
21 youth violence.

22 (5) The problem of violence committed by children in
23 school settings and proposed solutions.

24 (b) The authority shall return its completed youth
25 violence prevention and coordination plan to the
26 Legislature by January 1, 2001.

27 2054. (a) The authority shall have an advisory board
28 which shall meet periodically, but not less than once per
29 quarter, to carry out the following duties:

30 (1) Provide guidance and make recommendations
31 regarding the operations, priorities, and policies of the
32 office.

33 (2) Provide input and approve recommendations for
34 the statewide youth violence prevention and
35 coordination plan described in Section 2053.

36 (3) Provide statewide leadership by drawing the
37 attention of citizens and policymakers to the need for
38 improved coordination of violence prevention programs
39 and to the need for adequate resources supporting



1 effective and well-deployed programs for the prevention
2 of youth violence in California.

3 (b) The advisory board shall include the Attorney
4 General, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the
5 Director of the Department of the Youth Authority, the
6 Director of the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, and
7 the Director of the Department of Health Services. The
8 advisory board shall also include eight public members.
9 Four of the public members shall be appointed by the
10 Governor and shall include a local law enforcement
11 officer, a chief probation officer, an advocate or
12 individual representing the victims of violent crime, and
13 a representative of a school or school district or county
14 office of education that has implemented a school-based
15 violence prevention program. The other four public
16 members shall be appointed by the Attorney General and
17 shall include a representative of a community-based
18 agency specializing in youth violence prevention
19 services, a criminologist or justice system expert having
20 specialized knowledge in the field of violence prevention,
21 a medical or mental health professional experienced in
22 serving juvenile offenders, and a youth member who shall
23 be a person under the age of 25 years having relevant
24 experience in programs or activities related to the
25 prevention of violence.

26 2055. The State Violence Prevention Fund is hereby
27 created in the State Treasury. Funds received from
28 private, state, or federal sources for violence prevention
29 purposes may be deposited into the fund. Upon
30 appropriation therefor by the Legislature, these funds
31 shall be used by the California Youth Violence Prevention
32 Authority to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

33 SEC. 2. Funding to implement the purposes,
34 objectives, and operations of the California Youth
35 Violence Prevention Authority shall be provided from an
36 amount appropriated to the office of the Attorney
37 General in the Budget Act of 2000.

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