

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 14, 1999  
AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 24, 1999  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 278**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Honda**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Knox, Kuehl, Lempert,**  
**Romero, and Washington)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Solis)

February 4, 1999

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An act to add Section 11465.6 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to human services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 278, as amended, Honda. Foster care providers: child care payments.

Existing law provides for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program, under which each county provides payments to foster care providers on behalf of qualified low-income children, through a combination of county, state, and in certain instances, federal funds.

This bill would, in accordance with specified findings and declarations, and subject to federal approval, permit each county to implement a countywide program for all licensed family homes or relative caregivers receiving AFDC-FC payments, under which they may receive reimbursement for

the cost of licensed child care for children under 12 years of age, under specified conditions.

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. (a) The Legislature finds and declares  
2 as follows:

3 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this  
4 act to accomplish all of the following:

5 (A) To provide safe and stable homelike placements  
6 for children served by the foster care system.

7 (B) To recruit and retain high quality foster and  
8 adoptive families to ensure an adequate supply of homes  
9 for abused and neglected children.

10 (C) To avoid costly and often inappropriate  
11 placements of young children into group homes, foster  
12 family agencies, and emergency shelters.

13 (D) To reduce the financial barriers for current foster  
14 parents and relative caregivers in finding high quality  
15 child care so that they may attend administrative  
16 hearings, foster care training, be employed outside the  
17 home when necessary, or participate in required  
18 activities related to fulfilling their foster caregiving  
19 responsibilities.

20 (E) To provide enhanced opportunities for  
21 permanent placement for children, in particular to  
22 ensure support for kinship care and to persons who  
23 become adoptive parents.

24 (2) Child care in a high quality setting can provide  
25 children with experiences that enhance their social,  
26 emotional, and behavioral development, and their  
27 successful transition into elementary school.

28 (3) Foster children and their foster families shall be  
29 provided the resources and support necessary to ensure  
30 optimal growth and development in a cost-effective  
31 manner.



1 (b) The Legislature finds and declares that this act  
2 provides offsetting savings to the state and counties based  
3 on the following:

4 (1) Reduced utilization of emergency shelter  
5 placements.

6 (2) Reduced utilization of foster family agencies and  
7 group home placements.

8 (3) Reduced social work activity due to fewer  
9 disrupted placements.

10 SEC. 2. Section 11465.6 is added to the Welfare and  
11 Institutions Code, to read:

12 11465.6. (a) At the option of each county, a county  
13 may implement a countywide program for all licensed  
14 family homes or relative caregivers receiving payments  
15 under this chapter under which they may receive  
16 reimbursement for the cost of licensed child care for each  
17 foster child through 12 years of age in the care of the  
18 licensed family home or the relative caregiver, during the  
19 times that any of the following circumstances are met:

20 (1) The foster parent or relative caregiver is working  
21 outside the home.

22 (2) The foster parent or relative caregiver is  
23 participating in required foster care training.

24 (3) The foster parent or relative caregiver is fulfilling  
25 necessary foster care-related administrative duties, such  
26 as conferences and judicial reviews, that are not ordinary  
27 parental duties.

28 (b) A foster family home shall only receive a  
29 reimbursement for child care that is provided by a  
30 licensed provider and if an agreement has been  
31 documented in the child's case plan.

32 (c) The cost for reimbursements authorized by this  
33 section shall be consistent with applicable state-county  
34 sharing ratios.

35 (d) The department shall, in consultation with  
36 counties, establish rates of child care reimbursements  
37 pursuant to this section.

38 (e) Each participating county shall report to the  
39 department on an annual basis. The information reported  
40 to the department shall be determined by the



1 department in consultation with the County Welfare  
2 Directors' Association. At the minimum, the annual  
3 report shall include the number of foster parents claiming  
4 a child care reimbursement under this section and the  
5 number of children served.

6 (f) (1) Implementation of this section shall be  
7 contingent upon the receipt of federal financial  
8 participation. If necessary, the department shall, by April  
9 1, 2000, submit an amendment to the state plan under  
10 Subtitle E (commencing with Section 470) of Title IV of  
11 the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 670 et seq.)  
12 to the United States Department of Health and Human  
13 Services to reflect the provisions of this section.

14 (2) *Although this section shall not be implemented*  
15 *unless federal financial participation is received in*  
16 *accordance with paragraph (1), if this section is*  
17 *implemented its application shall not be limited to*  
18 *persons for whom federal financial participation is*  
19 *available.*

