

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 529**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin**

February 18, 2003

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An act to amend Section 1597.70 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to care facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 529, as introduced, Mullin. Employer-sponsored child care centers.

Existing law, the California Child Day Care Facilities Act, provides for the licensing and regulation of child day care facilities by the State Department of Social Services. Existing law requires the department to allow for reasonable waivers of those regulations that present difficulties to small businesses for licensure, except as provided, to encourage and facilitate the establishment of employer-sponsored child day care centers.

This bill would find and declare that cities and counties should work with businesses to identify and develop potential child day care sites and create a task force to develop high amenity areas with child day care facilities.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1597.70 of the Health and Safety Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 1597.70. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

- 1 (a) It is significant that the Santa Clara County  
2 Intergovernmental Council has found that due to changes in the  
3 labor force and an increase in the child population, 25 percent of  
4 the nation's workers must make child care arrangements.
- 5 (b) Californians will benefit from investment in child care.  
6 According to the House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and  
7 Families, one dollar invested in preschool education results in a  
8 savings of four dollars and seventy-five cents (\$4.75) in social  
9 costs.
- 10 (c) Allowing and encouraging businesses to open onsite or  
11 nearsite employer-sponsored child care centers has had a number  
12 of positive effects for Californians, including reduced job  
13 absenteeism, closer parent-child relationships, and increased  
14 worker productivity.
- 15 (d) In a 1990 study, the Department of General Services found  
16 that working parents add five to six miles to their daily commute  
17 for transporting their children to child care and school, and that the  
18 effect of this commute is 1,352 extra miles driven each year and  
19 an additional 56 pounds of auto emissions per person per year.
- 20 (e) *Cities and counties should work with businesses to identify*  
21 *and develop potential child day care sites and create a task force*  
22 *to develop high amenity areas with child day care facilities.*

