

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 667

Introduced by Assembly Member Jones

February 17, 2005

An act to add ~~and repeal~~ Section 17716 ~~of to~~ the Family Code, relating to child support.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 667, as amended, Jones. Child support enforcement.

Existing law establishes the Department of Child Support Services to administer laws and regulations pertaining to the administration of child support enforcement obligations. Existing law requires each county to maintain a local child support agency.

Existing law requires the Director of Child Support Services to review and approve annual budgets submitted by the local child support agencies to ensure each local child support agency operates an effective and efficient program that complies with all federal and state laws, regulations, and directives. Existing law provides for the payment of a federal incentive to every county, and also establishes a state child support incentive funding program permitting a county that comes within specified standards of performance to receive state child support incentive funds.

This bill would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to ~~conduct an evaluation, as specified, of the adequacy of the current child support services budgeting methodology and make recommendations~~

~~for revising the budgeting methodology in order to ensure accurate and adequate funding of the state child support program~~ *contract with an appropriate and qualified entity to conduct an evaluation of the child support program, as specified, and would provide for the convening of an advisory group in that regard.* The bill would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to report ~~its~~ *the* findings and recommendations *of the evaluation* to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2007. The bill also would require the Department of Child Support Services to provide to the Legislative Analyst's Office requested caseload performance and expenditure data to ensure timely completion of the report.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*
3 *(a) Child support is critical to the financial security of*
4 *children throughout California.*
5 *(b) Maximizing federal incentive payments and adequately*
6 *funding the child support services program are crucial elements*
7 *in ensuring effective child support enforcement.*
8 *(c) The existing approach to budgeting and funding of child*
9 *support services was established before the current federal*
10 *incentive structure was implemented, and it is in the best interest*
11 *of children for the Legislature to find out if the program is*
12 *effective, the resources available to the program are sufficient,*
13 *and the allocation of resources among counties is equitable and*
14 *adequate to maximize child support collections for families and*
15 *to carry out all federal and state statutory and regulatory*
16 *requirements governing the program.*
17 *SEC. 2. Section 11716 is added to the Family Code, to read:*
18 *11716. (a) The Legislative Analyst's Office shall contract*
19 *with an appropriate and qualified entity to conduct an evaluation*
20 *of the child support program, including the current level of*
21 *funding for child support services and allocation methodology,*
22 *and to make recommendations for revising the allocation*
23 *methodology. The evaluation shall include appropriate caseload*
24 *levels in order to ensure accurate, equitable, and adequate*

1 *funding for the state child support program and local child*
2 *support programs. This evaluation shall, at a minimum, consider*
3 *the impact of the following factors on the allocation methodology*
4 *for local child support programs:*

5 *(1) The current state and federal statutory and regulatory*
6 *environment for child support services.*

7 *(2) The state-of-the-art advancement and best practices.*

8 *(3) The potential impact of the California Child Support*
9 *Automated System on the workload of workers in the system.*

10 *(4) The caseload and workload levels, as well as statutory,*
11 *policy, and regulatory requirements, in other states.*

12 *(5) The impact on workload of timely establishing and*
13 *collecting child support to meet children's needs.*

14 *(6) Recruitment and retention issues affecting child support*
15 *staff in local programs.*

16 *(b) The Legislative Analyst's Office shall convene an advisory*
17 *group that shall include representatives of the department, the*
18 *Child Support Directors Association of California, the California*
19 *State Association of Counties, child support services consumers,*
20 *children's advocacy organizations, child support worker*
21 *organizations, and appropriate policy and fiscal committees of*
22 *the Legislature. The advisory group shall do both of the*
23 *following:*

24 *(1) Provide oversight over the process of selecting an entity to*
25 *conduct evaluations under subdivision (a).*

26 *(2) Provide oversight over, and technical assistance to, the*
27 *entity selected to conduct the evaluations under subdivision (a).*

28 *(c) The department shall provide the Legislative Analyst's*
29 *Office requested caseload performance and expenditure data to*
30 *ensure timely completion of the report required by subdivision*

31 *(d) of this section.*

32 *(d) The Legislative Analyst's Office shall report the findings*
33 *and recommendations of the evaluation to the appropriate policy*
34 *and fiscal committees of the Legislature on or before January 1,*
35 *2007.*

36 ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares both of the~~
37 ~~following:~~

38 ~~(a) Child support is critical to the financial security of children~~
39 ~~throughout California.~~

1 ~~(b) The existing approach to budgeting and funding of child~~
2 ~~support services was established before the current federal~~
3 ~~incentive structure was implemented, and it is in the best interest~~
4 ~~of children for the Legislature to find out if the system is~~
5 ~~effective as a means of maximizing child support collections for~~
6 ~~families, maximizing federal incentive payments, and adequately~~
7 ~~funding the program today.~~

8 SEC. 2. Section 17716 is added to the Family Code, to read:

9 17716. (a) The Legislative Analyst's Office shall conduct an
10 evaluation of the adequacy of the current child support services
11 budgeting methodology and make recommendations for revising
12 the budgeting methodology, including appropriate caseload
13 standards, in order to ensure accurate and adequate funding of the
14 state child support program. In preparing this evaluation, the
15 Legislative Analyst's Office shall consider the impact of the
16 following factors on the budgeting methodology:

17 (1) The current state and federal statutory and regulatory
18 environment for child support services.

19 (2) The state of the art advancements and best practices.

20 (3) The potential impact of the California Child Support
21 Automated System on the workload of workers in the system.

22 (4) The comparable caseload and workload levels in other
23 states.

24 (5) The impact on workload of timely establishing and
25 collecting child support to meet children's needs.

26 (b) In preparing this evaluation, the Legislative Analyst's
27 Office shall consult with representatives of the department, the
28 Child Support Directors Association of California, the California
29 State Association of Counties, child support services consumers,
30 children's advocacy organizations, child support worker
31 organizations, and appropriate policy and fiscal committees of
32 the Legislature.

33 (c) The department shall provide the Legislative Analyst's
34 Office requested caseload performance and expenditure data to
35 ensure timely completion of the report required pursuant to
36 subdivision (d).

37 (d) The Legislative Analyst's Office shall report the findings
38 and recommendations of the evaluation to the appropriate policy
39 and fiscal committees of the Legislature on or before January 1,
40 2007.

1 ~~(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,~~
2 ~~2008, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted~~
3 ~~statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2008, deletes or extends~~
4 ~~that date.~~

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