

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 27, 2005

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 Section 17716 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 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 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 children
 4 throughout California. *Maximizing child support collections and*
 5 *improving child support program operations will help ensure*
 6 *financial security for children in California.*
 7 (b) Maximizing federal incentive payments and adequately
 8 funding the child support services program are crucial elements
 9 in ensuring effective child support enforcement.
 10 ~~(e)~~—The existing approach to budgeting and funding of child
 11 support services was established before the current federal
 12 incentive structure was implemented, and it is in the best interest
 13 of children for the Legislature to find out if the program is
 14 effective, the resources available to the program are sufficient,
 15 and the allocation of resources among counties is equitable and
 16 adequate to maximize child support collections for families and
 17 to carry out all federal and state statutory and regulatory
 18 requirements governing the program.
 19 SEC. 2. Section ~~11716~~ *17716* is added to the Family Code, to
 20 read:
 21 ~~11716.—~~
 22 *17716.* (a) The Legislative Analyst’s Office shall contract
 23 with an appropriate and qualified entity to conduct an evaluation
 24 of the child support program, including *collections and*
 25 *cost-effectiveness, possible additional enforcement tools,* the
 26 current level of funding for child support services, and allocation
 27 methodology, and to make recommendations for revising

1 *program operations, such as management practices, protocols,*
2 *procedures or other elements of program operations, collection*
3 *options, and the allocation methodology.* The evaluation shall
4 include appropriate caseload levels in order to ensure accurate,
5 equitable, and adequate funding for the state child support
6 program and local child support programs. This evaluation shall,
7 at a minimum, consider the impact of the following factors on the
8 allocation methodology for local child support programs:

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

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

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

14 (4) The caseload and workload levels, as well as statutory,
15 policy, and regulatory requirements, in other states.

16 (5) The impact on workload of timely establishing and
17 collecting child support to meet children’s needs.

18 (6) Recruitment and retention issues affecting child support
19 staff in local programs.

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

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

30 (2) Provide oversight ~~over~~ *of*, and technical assistance to, the
31 entity selected to conduct the evaluations under subdivision (a).

32 (c) The department shall provide the Legislative Analyst’s
33 Office requested caseload performance and expenditure data to
34 ensure timely completion of the report required by subdivision
35 (d) of this section.

36 (d) The Legislative Analyst’s Office shall report the findings
37 and recommendations of the evaluation to the appropriate policy

1 and fiscal committees of the Legislature on or before January 1,
2 2007.

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