

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1876**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Leslie**

January 19, 2006

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An act to add and repeal Chapter 12.97 (commencing with Section 18986.70) of Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1876, as introduced, Leslie. Foster Child Welfare Act of 2006.

Existing law provides for oversight by various state and local entities of certain populations of children, including those who are wards of the juvenile court, and those who are in foster care, or are otherwise under the supervision of county welfare departments.

This bill, the "Foster Child Welfare Act of 2006," would require the Placer County Department of Health and Human Services, with the county's consent, to conduct a one-year pilot program to achieve permanency solutions for at-risk foster clients in the county, by working with faith-based institutions and other appropriate nonprofit organizations. The bill would define "at-risk foster clients" for purposes of the pilot program. It would require the county department to submit a report evaluating the pilot program to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the State Department of Social Services, and other county human services departments.

This bill would appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund to the county for purposes of conducting the pilot program. It would declare that special legislation is necessary due to the unique circumstances applicable to Placer County with respect to foster care.

This bill would make its provisions inoperative on July 1, 2008, and repealed as of January 1, 2009, unless these dates are extended by a later enacted statute.

Vote: 2/3. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 12.97 (commencing with Section  
2 18986.70) is added to Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and  
3 Institutions Code, to read:

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5 CHAPTER 12.97. PLACER COUNTY FOSTER CARE PERMANENCY  
6 PILOT PROGRAM  
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8 18986.70. (a) This chapter shall be known and may be cited  
9 as the “Foster Child Welfare Act of 2006.”

10 (b) The Placer County Department of Health and Human  
11 Services shall conduct a one-year pilot program pursuant to this  
12 chapter to achieve permanency solutions for at-risk foster clients  
13 in the county. The pilot program shall be conducted with the  
14 consent of the county.

15 (c) The county department shall contact all faith-based  
16 institutions and other appropriate nonprofit organizations within  
17 the county and shall work with those entities to identify liaisons  
18 who are willing to head permanency solution efforts at each  
19 organization. Each liaison shall have both of the following  
20 duties:

21 (1) To establish within the faith-based institution or nonprofit  
22 organization a support network for parents and relatives of at-risk  
23 foster clients eligible for permanency, for the purpose of  
24 reunification or relative adoption.

25 (2) To administer a recruitment program in the faith-based  
26 institution or nonprofit organization to identify individuals who  
27 can provide permanency solutions for at-risk foster clients, such  
28 as nonrelative guardianship or adoption.

29 (d) For purposes of this chapter, “at-risk foster clients” include  
30 all of the following:

- 31 (1) Foster clients with disabilities.
- 32 (2) Sibling groups of three or more foster clients.

1 (3) Foster clients over the age of 13 years.

2 (4) African-American foster clients.

3 (e) At the end of the pilot program, the county department  
4 shall submit to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the  
5 State Department of Social Services, and other county  
6 departments of human services, a report evaluating the pilot  
7 program.

8 18986.72. This chapter shall become inoperative on July 1,  
9 2008, and, as of January 1, 2009, is repealed, unless a later  
10 enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1,  
11 2009, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes  
12 inoperative and is repealed.

13 SEC. 2. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)  
14 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State  
15 Department of Social Services for allocation to the Placer County  
16 Department of Health and Human Services for the 2007–08 fiscal  
17 year, for the purpose of implementing the pilot program provided  
18 for pursuant to Chapter 12.97 (commencing with Section  
19 18986.70) of Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions  
20 Code.

21 SEC. 3. Due to the unique circumstances in Placer County  
22 with respect to foster care, it is necessary that, and the  
23 Legislature finds and declares that, a general statute cannot be  
24 made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV  
25 of the California Constitution.