

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2006
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 27, 2006
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1876

Introduced by Assembly Member Leslie

January 19, 2006

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 amended, Leslie. ~~Foster Child Welfare Act of 2006.~~
Placer County Foster Youth 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,~~" "*Placer County Foster Youth 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~~ *youth* in the county, by working with faith-based institutions and other appropriate nonprofit organizations. The bill would define "at-risk foster-~~clients~~ *youth*" for purposes of the pilot program, *and would authorize participation in the program by foster youth who have been placed in Placer County in an out-of-county placement, in accordance with specified conditions.* The

bill would require the county to use reasonable and prudent judgment in selecting participating faith-based institutions and nonprofit organizations, consistent with the bill’s objectives and existing nondiscrimination laws and policies, *but would preclude providing funds directly to any faith-based organization.* It would ~~require~~ *prohibit the county from providing funds directly to any faith-based institution or nonprofit organization in implementing the pilot program.*

This bill would require the county department to ~~submit a report evaluating the pilot program~~ to the appropriate committees of the Legislature to evaluate the pilot program, and to submit that information the State Department of Social Services; and other county human services departments, on or before December 31, 2008.

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: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Children of African-American descent are more likely than
- 4 children from other ethnic groups to be referred to the child
- 5 welfare system.
- 6 (b) Children of African-American descent are proportionally
- 7 more likely than children from other ethnic groups to enter foster
- 8 care.
- 9 (c) Across age categories, children of African-American
- 10 descent are the highest percentage of children in foster care.
- 11 (d) Children of African-American descent stay in the child
- 12 welfare system longer than children from other ethnic groups.
- 13 (e) Children of African-American descent in both relative and
- 14 nonrelative placements are the ethnic group least likely to reunify
- 15 over time.

1 (f) Children of African-American descent are more likely than
2 children from other ethnic groups to reenter the child welfare
3 system after reunification.

4 (g) Children of African-American descent are less likely than
5 children from other ethnic groups to be ~~places~~ *placed* with some
6 or all of their siblings.

7 (h) It is ~~therefor~~ *therefore* the intent of the Legislature to enact
8 the ~~“Foster Child Welfare Act of 2006,”~~ *“Placer County Foster*
9 *Youth Welfare Act of 2006,”* to demonstrate both of the
10 following:

11 (1) The effectiveness of this child welfare model in reducing
12 the prevalence of children of African-American descent in the
13 state child welfare system.

14 (2) The effectiveness of this child welfare model in reducing
15 the prevalence of other high-risk ~~clients~~ *youth* within the state
16 child welfare system.

17 SEC. 2. Chapter 12.97 (commencing with Section 18986.70)
18 is added to Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions
19 Code, to read:

20

21 CHAPTER 12.97. PLACER COUNTY FOSTER CARE PERMANENCY
22 PILOT PROGRAM
23

24

25 18986.70. (a) This chapter shall be known and may be cited
26 as the ~~“Foster Child Welfare Act of 2006.”~~ *as the “Placer*
County Foster Youth Welfare Act of 2006.”

27 (b) The Placer County Department of Health and Human
28 Services shall conduct a one-year pilot program pursuant to this
29 chapter to achieve permanency solutions for at-risk foster ~~clients~~
30 *youth* in the county. The pilot program shall be conducted with
31 the consent of the county.

32 (c) The county department shall contact all faith-based
33 institutions and other appropriate nonprofit organizations within
34 the county and shall work with those entities to identify liaisons
35 who are willing to head permanency solution efforts at each
36 organization. Each liaison shall have both of the following
37 duties:

38 (1) To establish within the faith-based institution or nonprofit
39 organization a support network for parents and relatives of at-risk

1 foster-~~clients~~ *youth* eligible for permanency, for the purpose of
 2 reunification or relative adoption.

3 (2) To administer a recruitment program in the faith-based
 4 institution or nonprofit organization to identify individuals who
 5 can provide permanency solutions for at-risk foster-~~clients~~, *youth*,
 6 such as nonrelative guardianship, lifelong connections, or
 7 adoption.

8 (d) For purposes of this chapter, “at-risk foster-~~clients~~” *youth*”
 9 include all of the following:

- 10 (1) African-American foster-~~clients~~: *youth*.
- 11 (2) Foster-~~clients~~ *youth* with disabilities.
- 12 (3) Sibling groups of three or more foster-~~clients~~: *youth*.
- 13 (4) Foster-~~clients~~ *youth* over the age of 13 years.
- 14 (5) Other at-risk foster-~~clients~~; *youth*, as may be determined by
 15 the county.

16 (e) To the extent permitted by law, resources available
 17 pursuant to this chapter shall be prioritized to first serve ~~foster~~
 18 ~~care clients of African-American descent~~. *African-American*
 19 *foster youth*.

20 (f) *A foster youth who has been placed in Placer County in an*
 21 *out-of-county placement by the child’s or parent’s county of*
 22 *residence, and who satisfies the pilot program’s eligibility*
 23 *requirements, may participate in the pilot program if both of the*
 24 *following conditions are met:*

- 25 (1) *Placer County obtains written consent from the county of*
 26 *residence for the foster youth’s participation in the pilot*
 27 *program.*
- 28 (2) *Participation in the pilot program is consistent with the*
 29 *foster youth’s individual plan.*

30 ~~(f) At the end of the pilot program,~~

31 (g) *By December 31, 2008, the county department shall*
 32 *submit to report before the appropriate committees of the*
 33 *Legislature; to evaluate the pilot program. The county shall also*
 34 *submit this information to the State Department of Social*
 35 *Services; and other county departments of ~~human services~~, a*
 36 *report evaluating the pilot program.* *human services.*

37 18986.71. The county shall exercise reasonable and prudent
 38 judgment in selecting faith-based institutions and nonprofit
 39 organizations to participate in the pilot program, consistent with
 40 the objectives of this chapter and existing nondiscrimination laws

1 and policies, *however in implementing the pilot program, the*
2 *county shall not provide funds directly to any faith-based*
3 *institution or nonprofit organization .*

4 18986.72. This chapter shall become inoperative on July 1,
5 2008, and, as of January 1, 2009, is repealed, unless a later
6 enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1,
7 2009, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes
8 inoperative and is repealed.

9 ~~SEC. 2.~~

10 SEC. 3. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)
11 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State
12 Department of Social Services for allocation to the Placer County
13 Department of Health and Human Services for the 2007–08 fiscal
14 year, for the purpose of implementing the pilot program provided
15 for pursuant to Chapter 12.97 (commencing with Section
16 18986.70) of Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions
17 Code.

18 ~~SEC. 3.~~

19 SEC. 4. Due to the unique circumstances in Placer County
20 with respect to foster care, it is necessary that, and the
21 Legislature finds and declares that, a general statute cannot be
22 made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV
23 of the California Constitution.