

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1983**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Bass**

February 9, 2006

---

---

~~An act to amend Section 11403 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster children, and making an appropriation therefor. An act relating to foster children.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1983, as amended, Bass. Foster care.

*Under existing law, aid is provided to foster children until the age of 18 years, but may be continued after a child's 18th birthday if the child is attending high school or an equivalent vocational or technical program, or is pursuing a high school equivalency certificate, and meets other specified requirements.*

*This bill would require the department to convene a work group to identify former foster youth as a priority population, establish which services are provided and of most help to former foster youth, and to develop a plan to improve outreach efforts with a goal to increasing accessibility of these programs.*

*This bill would require the work group to prepare and submit its recommendations to the department no later than January 1, 2008.*

~~Existing law permits a child who is in foster care and receiving aid pursuant to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program, who is attending high school or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training on a full-time basis prior to his or her 18th birthday, to continue to receive aid following his or her 18th birthday, if the child continues to reside in foster care placement,~~

~~remains otherwise eligible for AFDC-FC payments, and continues to attend high school or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training on a full-time basis or is pursuing a high school equivalency certificate and if the child may reasonably be expected to complete the educational or training program before his or her 19th birthday. Existing law continuously appropriates moneys from the General Fund to defray a portion of county aid grant costs under the CalWORKs program, which includes the AFDC-FC program.~~

~~This bill would extend the eligibility of an otherwise eligible child receiving aid under the AFDC-FC program but who does not meet the eligibility conditions described above, for the period during which the child continues to remain in foster care placement, until the child finishes high school, obtains an equivalency certificate, or finishes the equivalent level of vocational or educational training, or until the child reaches 25 years of age, whichever occurs first. By extending eligibility for AFDC-FC benefits, this bill would make an appropriation. By extending eligibility for AFDC-FC benefits, this bill would increase the duties of counties administering the program, thus imposing a state-mandated local program.~~

~~The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.~~

~~This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions:~~

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

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

- 1 *SECTION 1. (a) The State Department of Social Services*
- 2 *shall convene a work group to identify former foster youth as a*
- 3 *priority population, to establish which services that are provided*
- 4 *to former foster care youth are of the most help to them, and to*
- 5 *develop a plan to improve outreach efforts in a way that makes*
- 6 *these services more accessible and more relevant to former foster*
- 7 *youth.*

1 (b) *The work group may include, but is not limited to,*  
2 *representatives of all of the following:*

- 3 (1) *County welfare departments.*
- 4 (2) *County mental health departments.*
- 5 (3) *Local housing agencies.*
- 6 (4) *County health departments.*
- 7 (5) *State and local employment services agencies.*
- 8 (6) *Employer organizations.*
- 9 (7) *Employee organizations.*

10 (c) *By January 1, 2008, the work group shall prepare and*  
11 *submit to the department its recommendations relating to finding*  
12 *a more effective and efficient method of providing services to*  
13 *former foster youth.*

14 (d) *The work group may secure private contributions to fund*  
15 *its responsibilities pursuant to this section.*

16 SECTION 1. ~~Section 11403 of the Welfare and Institutions~~  
17 ~~Code is amended to read:~~

18 ~~11403. (a) A child who is in foster care and receiving aid~~  
19 ~~pursuant to this chapter and who is attending high school or the~~  
20 ~~equivalent level of vocational or technical training on a full-time~~  
21 ~~basis, or who is in the process of pursuing a high school~~  
22 ~~equivalency certificate, prior to his or her 18th birthday, may~~  
23 ~~continue to receive aid following his or her 18th birthday so long~~  
24 ~~as the child continues to reside in foster care placement, remains~~  
25 ~~otherwise eligible for AFDC-FC payments, and continues to~~  
26 ~~attend high school or the equivalent level of vocational or~~  
27 ~~technical training on a full-time basis, or continues to pursue a~~  
28 ~~high school equivalency certificate, and the child may reasonably~~  
29 ~~be expected to complete the educational or training program or to~~  
30 ~~receive a high school equivalency certificate, before his or her~~  
31 ~~19th birthday. Aid shall be provided to an individual pursuant to~~  
32 ~~this section provided both the individual and the agency~~  
33 ~~responsible for the foster care placement have signed a mutual~~  
34 ~~agreement, if the individual is capable of making an informed~~  
35 ~~agreement, which documents the continued need for out-of-home~~  
36 ~~placement.~~

37 ~~(b) Any child who is in foster care and receiving aid pursuant~~  
38 ~~to this chapter and who does not meet the requirements of~~  
39 ~~subdivision (a) and remains otherwise eligible for AFDC-FC~~  
40 ~~payments shall continue to receive aid pursuant to this chapter as~~

1 ~~long as the child continues to reside in foster care placement,~~  
2 ~~until the child completes high school, obtains a certificate of~~  
3 ~~equivalency, completes the educational training, or reaches 25~~  
4 ~~years of age, whichever occurs first.~~

5 SEC. 2. ~~If the Commission on State Mandates determines that~~  
6 ~~this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to~~  
7 ~~local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made~~  
8 ~~pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division~~  
9 ~~4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.~~