

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 3, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1983**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Bass**

February 9, 2006

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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 *who are 18 to 29 years of age* 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.

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. (a) The State Department of Social Services  
2 shall convene a work group to identify former foster youth *who*  
3 *are 18 to 29 years of age* as a priority population, to establish  
4 which services that are provided to former foster care youth are  
5 of the most help to them, and to develop a plan to improve  
6 outreach efforts in a way that makes these services more  
7 accessible and more relevant to former foster youth.
- 8 (b) The work group may include, but is not limited to,  
9 representatives of all of the following:
- 10 (1) County welfare departments.
  - 11 (2) County mental health departments.
  - 12 (3) Local housing agencies.
  - 13 (4) County health departments.
  - 14 (5) State and local employment services agencies.
  - 15 (6) Employer organizations.
  - 16 (7) Employee organizations.
- 17 (c) By January 1, 2008, the work group shall prepare and  
18 submit to the department its recommendations relating to finding  
19 a more effective and efficient method of providing services to  
20 former foster youth.
- 21 (d) The work group may secure private contributions to fund  
22 its responsibilities pursuant to this section.