

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2006
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2006
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2141

Introduced by Assembly Member Jones

February 21, 2006

An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 124240) to Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to family planning.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2141, as amended, Jones. Family planning: Parent-Child Communication Assistance Program.

Under existing law, specified family planning services, administered by the Office of Family Planning within the State Department of Health Services, are provided to Medi-Cal recipients and certain other persons.

Existing law establishes various programs administered by the department relating to adolescent health.

This bill would establish the Parent-Child Communication Assistance Program within the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Branch of the department, with the goal of decreasing teenage pregnancies through programs that equip parents, guardians, and parenting adults with the knowledge, understanding, and communication skills necessary to talk to their children about making responsible decisions regarding at-risk sexual behavior. The bill would require that the program focus on parents, guardians, and parenting adults of minor children at risk of becoming pregnant or

impregnating someone, and would specify the funding priorities and certain provider—~~qualification standards~~ *qualifications* under the program. It would provide for the program to be implemented to the extent that an appropriation for that purpose is made from state or federal funds.

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) Research shows that teenagers who feel comfortable
4 communicating openly about sexuality with their parents, their
5 guardians, or other adult mentors are more likely to delay sexual
6 activity, are less likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, and
7 are better equipped to have healthy relationships than other
8 teenagers.

9 (b) The goal of the Parent-Child Communication Assistance
10 Program is to decrease teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted
11 diseases, and sexual assault through programs that equip
12 parenting adults with the knowledge, understanding, and
13 communication skills necessary to talk with their children about
14 sex and sexuality.

15 (c) Parenting adults often do not feel comfortable discussing
16 sex with their children. Parents, guardians, and other parenting
17 adults want to help their children make the best possible
18 decisions regarding what’s best for them. Honest communication
19 not only provides minors with the tools necessary for making
20 responsible decisions, but also helps protect them from sexual
21 abuse and from becoming sexual abusers.

22 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 124240) is
23 added to Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and
24 Safety Code, to read:

25
26 Article 3. Parent-Child Communication Assistance Program

27
28 124240. (a) The Parent-Child Communication Assistance
29 Program shall be a continuing program within the Maternal,
30 Child, and Adolescent Branch of the department, with the goal of

1 decreasing teenage pregnancies through programs that equip
2 parents, guardians, and parenting adults with the knowledge,
3 understanding, and communication skills necessary to talk to
4 their children about making responsible decisions regarding
5 at-risk sexual behavior.

6 (b) The program shall focus on parents, guardians, and
7 parenting adults of minor children at risk of becoming pregnant
8 or impregnating someone, in an effort to provide the parents,
9 guardians, and parenting adults with effective tools for
10 communicating with their children regarding responsible
11 behavior.

12 (c) Participation in the program by a parent, guardian, or
13 parenting adult shall be on a voluntary basis only.

14 (d) Priority for funding under the program shall be given to
15 public or private nonprofit organizations operating any of the
16 following types of programs:

17 (1) Programs that target parents, guardians, and parenting
18 adults in geographic areas that have been found to be at high risk
19 of teen pregnancy.

20 (2) Programs for parents, guardians, and parenting adults of
21 foster care youth.

22 (3) Programs designed to assist parents, guardians, and
23 parenting adults in communicating effectively with minors to
24 increase the minors' understanding of, and ability to act
25 responsibly regarding, their own sexuality and the social
26 pressures affecting them.

27 (e) Grants shall be made available to qualified public or
28 private nonprofit providers. The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent
29 Branch of the department shall establish provider-~~qualification~~
30 ~~standards~~, *qualifications*, which shall include, but not be limited
31 to, each of the following:

32 (1) Demonstrated cultural sensitivity and competence.

33 (2) ~~The medical accuracy and objectivity of all~~ *All* factual
34 information in the curriculum regarding human sexuality, the
35 prevention of unintended pregnancy, and sexually transmitted
36 infections *shall be medically accurate and objective*.

37 (3) Demonstrated ability to provide effective tools, skills, and
38 strategies for adult communication with minors regarding
39 sexuality.

1 (4) The provision of, or referral for, a comprehensive range of
2 services to meet the health, education, and welfare needs of
3 minors.

4 (5) The provision of a list of available resources in the
5 community.

6 (f) For purposes of this section, “parenting adult” means an
7 adult in a child rearing or mentoring role, regardless of whether
8 the adult is a relative of the minor.

9 (g) This section shall be implemented to the extent that an
10 appropriation for that purpose is made from funds made available
11 by the federal government or the state, or by both.