

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2592

Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brownley and Torlakson)

February 19, 2010

An act to add Article 14.7 (commencing with Section 8310) to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, relating to early childhood education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2592, as amended, Buchanan. Early Learning Quality Improvement System.

Existing law establishes the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee for the purpose of developing a policy and implementation plan for an Early Learning Quality Improvement System for the state. Existing law requires the committee to submit to the Legislature and the Governor an interim report by December 31, 2009, and a final report by December 31, 2010. The report is required to address various issues relating to early care and education programs that serve children from birth to 5 years of age, inclusive.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to ~~develop~~ and implement a quality rating scale based on the committee's recommendations *for the purposes of measuring the quality of early care and education providers and programs*. The bill would also require the California State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care to conduct an annual review of the ~~quality rating scale~~

program, and provide ongoing recommendations for improvement of the quality rating scale.

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) Numerous studies have shown that high-quality early
4 learning programs for low-income children significantly narrow
5 the achievement gap, reduce the high school dropout rate, and
6 produce savings from lower costs in special education, welfare,
7 recidivism or prisons, or both, and crime.

8 (b) Senate Bill 1629 of the 2007–08 Regular Session, enacted
9 as Chapter 41 of the Statutes of 2009, established the Early
10 Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee to
11 assess the current early care and education infrastructure, including
12 other state and local quality rating systems, and develop an early
13 learning quality rating scale and implementation plan for the Early
14 Learning Quality Improvement System.

15 (c) On March 10, 2009, President Barack Obama called on the
16 United States Congress to create the federal Early Learning
17 Challenge Fund, a proposal that would challenge states to develop
18 effective, innovative models that promote high standards of quality
19 and a focus on outcomes across early learning settings. In the
20 President’s 2011 Budget, he dedicated \$9 billion over 10 years
21 toward this effort.

22 (d) On November 16, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
23 signed Executive Order S-23-09 that established the California
24 State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care
25 to build on the Early Learning Quality Improvement System
26 Advisory Committee’s work, and to ensure that California is
27 eligible to compete for and maximize its share of new federal early
28 learning dollars.

29 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that the development of the
30 Early Learning Quality Improvement System provide a quality
31 rating scale with program indicators that promote high-quality
32 early care and education and future academic success.

1 SEC. 2. Article 14.7 (commencing with Section 8310) is added
2 to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education
3 Code, to read:

4
5 Article 14.7. Early Learning Quality Improvement System Act

6
7 8310. For purposes of this article, “early care and education
8 providers” and “early care and education facilities” mean early
9 care and education providers or facilities that are regulated pursuant
10 to Title 5 or Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

11 8311. The department shall ~~develop and~~ implement a quality
12 rating scale based on the recommendations submitted by the Early
13 Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee
14 pursuant to Section 8301. The quality rating scale shall do *all of*
15 the following:

16 (a) Measure the quality of services of an early care and education
17 provider.

18 (b) Measure elements of quality of an early care and education
19 facility *program* that include, but are not limited to, the following:

20 (1) Quality of the learning environment.

21 (2) Quality of adult-child interactions.

22 (3) Adult-to-child ratios.

23 (4) Provider’s education and professional qualifications,
24 including those recognized by the Commission on Teacher
25 Credentialing.

26 (5) Parent and family involvement.

27 (c) Inform parents and other consumers of early care and
28 education services about the quality of a facility in a simple and
29 easy to understand manner.

30 8312. The California State Advisory Council on Early
31 Childhood Education and Care shall conduct an annual review of
32 the program and provide ongoing recommendations for the
33 improvement of the quality rating scale.

34 8313. The department shall develop and implement any rules
35 and regulations necessary for the implementation of this article.