

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 4, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 2010

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 and repeal 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 Rating Scale Pilot Program.

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, contingent upon the receipt of federal funds for this purpose, require the State Department of Education to implement a quality rating scale, *including a pilot program*, based on the committee's

recommendations for the purposes of measuring the quality of early care and education providers and facilities. The bill would also require the California State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care to conduct an annual review of the pilot program, and provide ongoing recommendations for improvement of the quality rating scale. ~~The bill would require the State Department of Education to conduct an evaluation of the pilot program based on these reviews, select an evaluator to conduct an evaluation,~~ and to submit the evaluation to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2016.

This bill would make these provisions inoperative on June 30, 2017, and would repeal them as of January 1, 2018.

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 November 16, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
- 16 signed Executive Order S-23-09 that established the California
- 17 State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care
- 18 to build on the Early Learning Quality Improvement System
- 19 Advisory Committee’s work, and to ensure that California is
- 20 eligible to compete for and maximize its share of new federal early
- 21 learning dollars.

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

Article 14.7. Early Learning Quality Improvement Rating Scale
Pilot Program

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

8311. (a) Based on the final recommendations developed by the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 8301, the department shall implement a quality rating scale, ~~on a pilot basis~~ *including a pilot program*, that reflects *and supports* the cultural and linguistic diversity of California’s young children. *The use of a pilot program is also intended to inform future program design.* The quality rating scale may do any or all of the following:

(1) Measure the quality of services of an early care and education provider. *Measurements may include, but are not limited to, the following characteristics of the children and families:*

(A) Socioeconomic demographics.

(B) Ethnic, linguistic, and cultural demographics.

(C) *The providers’ demonstrated ability to address the learning needs of English learners and children with disabilities.*

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

(A) Quality of the learning environment.

(B) Quality of adult-child interactions.

(C) Adult-to-child ratios.

(D) Provider’s ~~education~~ *education, experience*, and professional qualifications, including those recognized by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

(E) Parent and family involvement.

(3) *The elements of quality will be used to measure and assess various early care and education providers and programs and to determine childrens’ outcomes.*

(3)

1 (4) Inform parents and other consumers of early care and
2 education services about the quality of a facility in a simple and
3 easy to understand manner.

4 (b) The department shall develop criteria for the selection of
5 early care and education providers and facilities to participate in
6 the pilot program described in subdivision (a). The department
7 shall ensure that the early care and education providers and
8 facilities selected are geographically diverse and provide services
9 to low-income children, children with special needs, and English
10 learners.

11 8312. The California State Advisory Council on Early
12 Childhood Education and Care shall do ~~both~~ all of the following:

13 (a) Conduct an annual review of the pilot program established
14 pursuant to this article and provide ongoing recommendations for
15 the improvement of the quality rating scale.

16 (b) Develop criteria to be used to evaluate the pilot program
17 established pursuant to this article.

18 (c) *Select an evaluator to conduct an evaluation of the pilot*
19 *program established pursuant to this article.*

20 (d) *Submit the evaluation to the appropriate policy committees*
21 *of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2016.*

22 8313. The department shall develop and implement any rules
23 and regulations necessary for the implementation of this ~~article~~
24 *pilot program.*

25 ~~8314. The department shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot~~
26 ~~program established pursuant to this article based on the annual~~
27 ~~reviews and criteria developed by the California State Advisory~~
28 ~~Council on Early Childhood Education and Care pursuant to~~
29 ~~Section 8312. The department shall submit the evaluation to the~~
30 ~~appropriate policy committees of the Legislature on or before~~
31 ~~January 1, 2016.~~

32 ~~8315.~~

33 8314. This article shall not be implemented unless federal early
34 care and education funds are provided for these purposes.

35 ~~8316.~~

36 8315. This article shall become inoperative on June 30, 2017,
37 and, as of January 1, 2018, is repealed, unless a later enacted
38 statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2018,

- 1 deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and
- 2 is repealed.

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