

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 235

**Introduced by Assembly Member Kuehl and Senator Schiff
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Honda, Jackson,
and Washington)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aroner, Cardoza, Keeley,
Knox, Longville, Machado, Mazzoni, Romero, Steinberg,
Strom-Martin, and Wildman)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Alpert, Hughes, Johnston, Karnette,
and Solis)**

January 28, 1999

An act to add Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 2050) to Division 2.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to youth.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 235, as amended, Kuehl. California Youth Violence Prevention Authority.

Under existing law, all state agencies are required to cooperate with the Department of the Youth Authority in order to bring about a statewide program for reduction and prevention of crime and delinquency. Existing law requires the State Commission on Juvenile Justice, Crime and Delinquency Prevention to advise the Director of the Youth

Authority on matters relating to crime and delinquency prevention.

This bill would create the California Youth Violence Prevention Authority within the office of the Attorney General. The authority would be given duties and responsibilities related to the prevention of youth violence, including the production of a statewide plan for the augmentation, allocation, and coordination of youth violence prevention programs and resources, for presentation to the Legislature by January 1, 2001, to be known as the California Youth Violence Prevention and Coordination Plan. The duties and responsibilities of the authority would include administering a violence prevention grant program with available funds, as specified. The bill would provide for an advisory committee, as specified, to assist the authority, ~~and would also create the state Violence Prevention Fund in the State Treasury.~~ This bill would specify that funding for the authority shall be provided in the Budget Act of 2000, as specified.

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. Chapter 3 (commencing with Section
2 2050) is added to Division 2.5 of the Welfare and
3 Institutions Code, to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 3. CALIFORNIA YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION
6 ACT
7

8 2050. This chapter shall be known and may be cited
9 as the California Youth Violence Prevention Act.

10 2051. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
11 following:

12 (a) Violence is a leading cause of injury and death
13 among young Californians, and it must be recognized as
14 a major public health concern.



1 (b) California must take steps to prevent shootings
2 and other senseless acts of violence committed by
3 children experiencing anger, distress, or other problems.

4 (c) Despite recent declines in the rate of arrests of
5 juveniles for crimes of violence, statewide victimization
6 and arrest rates of juveniles and young adults for acts
7 involving violence remain unacceptably high.

8 (d) The resources and responses of the California
9 juvenile and criminal justice systems are inadequate to
10 control and prevent violence at its developmental stages
11 among children, youth, and families.

12 (e) California has no comprehensive youth violence
13 prevention plan or strategy.

14 (f) State-funded violence prevention programs are
15 scattered among 10 or more state agencies without
16 adequate coordination of effort. Both the Little Hoover
17 Commission and the Task Force to Review Juvenile
18 Crime and the Juvenile Justice Response have
19 recommended that youth crime and violence prevention
20 programs be consolidated for greater effectiveness
21 within a single state agency.

22 (g) The California Attorney General has determined
23 that the long-term health of our society depends on a new
24 approach to community-building, with an increased
25 emphasis on prevention, community involvement, and
26 collaboration.

27 (h) Local communities need assistance, including
28 economic assistance, to implement effective strategies
29 and programs for the prevention of violence among
30 youth.

31 (i) Model, innovative, and successful violence
32 prevention programs must be identified, implemented,
33 and evaluated in California.

34 (j) State leadership and improved public agency
35 collaboration are needed to assist citizens, communities,
36 and local governments in their efforts to prevent youth
37 violence.

38 (k) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Youth
39 Violence Prevention Authority be designed to achieve
40 greater efficiency in state government, and that, in a



1 manner consistent with the plan described in Section
2 2053, violence prevention programs which can be more
3 efficiently administered under a single agency be merged
4 with the authority or into another designated agency
5 within one year of issuance of the plan. It is also the intent
6 of the Legislature, if no consolidation or more efficient
7 coordination of existing programs is recommended by the
8 authority, to repeal this chapter no later than one year
9 after the authority issues the statewide plan.

10 2052. (a) The California Youth Violence Prevention
11 Authority is hereby created within the office of the
12 Attorney General.

13 (b) The duties and responsibilities of the authority
14 shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

15 (1) Providing statewide leadership and coordinating
16 state and local efforts to prevent violence among youth.

17 (2) Assisting local communities, cities, and counties in
18 their efforts to implement effective programs and
19 strategies for the prevention of youth violence.

20 (3) Seeking, receiving, and administering grants and
21 funds from public and private sources for violence
22 prevention efforts and programs.

23 (4) Providing public education on effective programs,
24 models, and strategies for the control of violence and
25 serving as a clearinghouse for information on youth
26 violence prevention issues, programs, resources, and
27 research.

28 (5) Providing training and technical assistance to help
29 build the capacity of organizations, communities, and
30 local government to develop, implement, and evaluate
31 violence prevention programs.

32 (6) Promoting and advocating at all levels of
33 government effective community programs and
34 responses, supported by adequate resources, for the
35 prevention of violence among children, youth, and
36 families in California.

37 2053. (a) The authority shall produce a statewide
38 plan for the augmentation, allocation, and coordination of
39 youth violence prevention programs and resources. The
40 plan shall be developed with the cooperation and



1 approval of the advisory board described in Section 2054
2 and shall be known as the California Youth Violence
3 Prevention and Coordination Plan. The plan shall include
4 recommendations for the coordination or consolidation of
5 violence prevention funds and programs which are
6 presently administered by different state agencies. The
7 plan shall also include recommendations for the
8 augmentation, implementation, and evaluation of
9 state-funded youth violence prevention programs. The
10 plan shall also address other factors related to the
11 problem of youth violence in California, including, but
12 not limited to, the following:

13 (1) Recent state and national research on the
14 effectiveness and cost effectiveness of violence
15 prevention programs and strategies being implemented
16 in California and in other states.

17 (2) The relationship of projected growth in
18 California's youth population to the need for additional
19 youth violence prevention resources and programs.

20 (3) The need for a stable and continuing source of
21 funds to maintain a state and local network of effective
22 youth violence prevention programs and strategies.

23 (4) Firearm control policies and their relationship to
24 youth violence.

25 (5) The problem of violence committed by children in
26 school settings and proposed solutions.

27 (b) The authority shall return its completed youth
28 violence prevention and coordination plan to the
29 Legislature by January 1, 2001.

30 2054. (a) The authority shall have an advisory board
31 which shall meet periodically, but not less than once per
32 quarter, to carry out the following duties:

33 (1) Provide guidance and make recommendations
34 regarding the operations, priorities, and policies of the
35 office.

36 (2) Provide input and approve recommendations for
37 the statewide youth violence prevention and
38 coordination plan described in Section 2053.

39 (3) Provide statewide leadership by drawing the
40 attention of citizens and policymakers to the need for



1 improved coordination of violence prevention programs
2 and to the need for adequate resources supporting
3 effective and well-deployed programs for the prevention
4 of youth violence in California.

5 (b) The advisory board shall include the Attorney
6 General, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the
7 Director of the Department of the Youth Authority, the
8 Director of the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, and
9 the Director of the Department of Health Services. The
10 advisory board shall also include eight public members.
11 Four of the public members shall be appointed by the
12 Governor and shall include a local law enforcement
13 officer, a chief probation officer, an advocate or
14 individual representing the victims of violent crime, and
15 a representative of a school or school district or county
16 office of education that has implemented a school-based
17 violence prevention program. ~~The other four public~~
18 ~~members shall be appointed by the Attorney General and~~
19 ~~shall include a representative of a community-based~~
20 ~~agency specializing in youth violence prevention~~
21 ~~services, a criminologist or justice system expert having~~
22 ~~specialized knowledge in the field of violence prevention,~~
23 ~~a medical or mental health professional experienced in~~
24 ~~servicing juvenile offenders, and a youth member who shall~~
25 ~~be a person under the age of 25 years having relevant~~
26 ~~experience in programs or activities related to the~~
27 ~~prevention of violence.~~

28 ~~2055. The State Violence Prevention Fund is hereby~~
29 ~~created in the State Treasury. Funds received from~~
30 ~~private, state, or federal sources for violence prevention~~
31 ~~purposes may be deposited into the fund. Upon~~
32 ~~appropriation therefor by the Legislature, these funds~~
33 ~~shall be used by the California Youth Violence Prevention~~
34 ~~Authority to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The~~
35 ~~Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint two members, one~~
36 ~~of whom shall be a representative of a community-based~~
37 ~~agency specializing in youth violence prevention~~
38 ~~services, and the other shall be a youth member who shall~~
39 ~~be a person under the age of 25 years who has relevant~~
40 ~~experience in programs or activities related to the~~



1 *prevention of violence. The Senate Rules Committee*
2 *shall appoint two members, one of whom shall be a*
3 *criminologist or justice system expert having specialized*
4 *knowledge in the field of violence prevention, and the*
5 *other shall be a medical or mental health professional who*
6 *has experience in serving juvenile offenders.*

7 SEC. 2. Funding to implement the purposes,
8 objectives, and operations of the California Youth
9 Violence Prevention Authority shall be provided from an
10 amount appropriated to the office of the Attorney
11 General in the Budget Act of 2000.

