

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 25, 1999

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, *and making an appropriation therefor.*

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~~ *administered by an appointee of the Governor*. 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. This bill would ~~specify that funding for the authority shall be provided in the Budget Act of 2000, as specified~~ *appropriate \$375,000 from the General Fund to the authority, as specified*.

Vote: ~~majority~~ ^{2/3}. Appropriation: ~~no~~ yes. 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. *Recent evaluations of model*
34 *violence prevention programs have demonstrated that*
35 *these programs, particularly those that stress*
36 *intervention early in the lives of children, can effectively*
37 *reduce or prevent acts of crime and violence.*

38 (j) State leadership and improved public agency
39 collaboration are needed to assist citizens, communities,



1 and local governments in their efforts to prevent youth
2 violence.

3 (k) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Youth
4 Violence Prevention Authority be designed to achieve
5 greater efficiency in state government, and that, in a
6 manner consistent with the plan described in Section
7 ~~2053~~ 2054, violence prevention programs which can be
8 more efficiently administered under a single agency be
9 merged with the authority or into another designated
10 agency within one year of issuance of the plan. It is also
11 the intent of the Legislature, if no consolidation or more
12 efficient coordination of existing programs is
13 recommended by the authority, to repeal this chapter no
14 later than one year after the authority issues the statewide
15 plan.

16 2052. (a) The California Youth Violence Prevention
17 Authority is hereby created within ~~the office of the~~
18 ~~Attorney General.~~

19 ~~(b) state government.~~

20 (b) *The authority shall be administered by an*
21 *executive director who shall be appointed by and shall be*
22 *responsible to the Governor and shall hold office at the*
23 *pleasure of the Governor. In selecting the executive*
24 *director, the Governor shall consult with and be advised*
25 *by the members of the advisory board described in*
26 *Section 2055. The executive director may appoint*
27 *deputies, assistants, and other officers, employees or*
28 *consultants as he or she may deem necessary to*
29 *implement the duties, responsibilities, and objectives of*
30 *the Youth Violence Prevention Authority.*

31 2053. (a) The duties and responsibilities of the
32 authority shall include, but are not limited to, all of the
33 following:

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

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



1 ~~(3) Seeking, receiving, and administering grants and~~
2 ~~funds from public and private sources for violence~~
3 ~~prevention efforts and programs.~~

4 (3) *Annually reviewing proposed expenditures of*
5 *state and general funds for youth violence prevention*
6 *programs and strategies in California.*

7 (4) Providing public education on effective programs,
8 models, and strategies for the control of violence and
9 serving as a clearinghouse for information on youth
10 violence prevention issues, programs, resources, and
11 research.

12 (5) Providing training and technical assistance to help
13 build the capacity of organizations, communities, and
14 local government to develop, implement, and evaluate
15 violence prevention programs.

16 (6) Promoting and advocating at all levels of
17 government effective community programs and
18 responses, supported by adequate resources, for the
19 prevention of violence among children, youth, and
20 families in California.

21 *(b) The authority may seek, receive, and administer*
22 *grants and funds from public and private sources for*
23 *violence prevention programs and strategies.*

24 ~~2053.—~~

25 2054. (a) The authority shall produce a statewide
26 plan for the augmentation, allocation, and coordination of
27 youth violence prevention programs and resources. *The*
28 *plan shall be known as the California Youth Violence*
29 *Prevention and Coordination Plan.* The plan shall be
30 developed with the cooperation and approval of the
31 advisory board described in Section 2054 ~~and shall be~~
32 ~~known as the California Youth Violence Prevention and~~
33 ~~Coordination Plan.~~ *The plan shall include and with*
34 *broad-based input from juvenile justice agencies,*
35 *including law enforcement, probation, correction,*
36 *judges, and defense attorneys, from community-based*
37 *youth service agencies that work directly with young*
38 *offenders or victims, and from other stakeholders deemed*
39 *appropriate for inclusion in the development of the plan*
40 *by the executive director of the authority. The plan shall*



1 *include* recommendations for the coordination or
2 consolidation of violence prevention funds and programs
3 which are presently administered by different state
4 agencies. The plan shall also include recommendations
5 for the augmentation, implementation, and evaluation of
6 state-funded youth violence prevention programs. The
7 plan shall also address other factors related to the
8 problem of youth violence in California, including, but
9 not limited to, the following:

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

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

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

20 (4) Firearm control policies and their relationship to
21 youth violence.

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

24 (6) *A definition of "at risk youth" for purposes of*
25 *targeting resources to youth violence prevention*
26 *programs and strategies that are likely to have the*
27 *greatest impact on the statewide problem.*

28 (7) *The appropriate role of private, nonprofit, and*
29 *community-based agencies in delivering*
30 *prevention-based services and interventions to at-risk*
31 *youth.*

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

35 ~~2054.—~~

36 (c) *The authority shall annually produce a report*
37 *containing its analysis and recommendations for*
38 *expenditures of state funds on youth violence prevention*
39 *programs including school-based programs, local, and*
40 *community-based youth crime and violence prevention*



1 *programs, and statewide grants programs for services to*
2 *children at risk of entering or presently involved with the*
3 *juvenile justice system. The authority's annual report*
4 *shall be known as the Violence Prevention Budget*
5 *Analysis and shall be provided each year to the Governor*
6 *and to the Budget Committees of the Legislature prior to*
7 *May 15. If SB 334 of the 1999–2000 Regular Session of the*
8 *Legislature becomes enacted, the authority's annual*
9 *report shall include recommendations on allocations*
10 *from the State Violence Prevention Fund, as established*
11 *by that act, to specific programs. Upon completion of the*
12 *California Youth Violence Prevention and Coordination*
13 *Plan described in subdivision (a), the authority's annual*
14 *Violence Prevention Budget Analysis shall be guided by*
15 *the recommendations for program implementation,*
16 *coordination, or consolidation made in the plan.*

17 2055. (a) The authority shall have an advisory board
18 which shall meet periodically, but not less than once per
19 quarter, to carry out the following duties:

20 (1) Provide guidance and make recommendations
21 regarding the operations, priorities, and policies of the
22 office.

23 (2) Provide input and approve recommendations for
24 the statewide youth violence prevention and
25 coordination plan described in Section ~~2053~~ 2054.

26 (3) Provide statewide leadership by drawing the
27 attention of citizens and policymakers to the need for
28 improved coordination of violence prevention programs
29 and to the need for adequate resources supporting
30 effective and well-deployed programs for the prevention
31 of youth violence in California.

32 (b) The advisory board shall include the Attorney
33 General, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the
34 Director of the Department of the Youth Authority, the
35 Director of the Office of Criminal Justice Planning,
36 *Secretary of Health and Welfare, the Superintendent of*
37 *Public Instruction,* and the Director of the Department
38 of Health Services. *The board shall be cochaired by the*
39 *Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and*
40 *Welfare.* The advisory board shall also include eight



1 public members. Four of the public members shall be
 2 appointed by the Governor and shall include a local law
 3 enforcement officer, a chief probation officer, an
 4 advocate or individual representing the victims of violent
 5 crime, and a representative of a school or school district
 6 or county office of education that has implemented a
 7 school-based violence prevention program. The Speaker
 8 of the Assembly shall appoint two members, one of whom
 9 shall be a representative of a community-based agency
 10 specializing in youth violence prevention services, and
 11 the other shall be a youth member who shall be a person
 12 under the age of 25 years who has relevant experience in
 13 programs or activities related to the prevention of
 14 violence. The Senate Rules Committee shall appoint two
 15 members, one of whom shall be a criminologist or justice
 16 system expert having specialized knowledge in the field
 17 of violence prevention, and the other shall be a medical
 18 or mental health professional who has experience in
 19 serving juvenile offenders.

20 ~~SEC. 2. Funding to implement the purposes,~~
 21 ~~objectives, and operations of the California Youth~~
 22 ~~Violence Prevention Authority shall be provided from an~~
 23 ~~amount appropriated to the office of the Attorney~~
 24 ~~General in the Budget Act of 2000.~~

25 *SEC. 2. There is hereby appropriated from the*
 26 *General Fund to the Youth Violence Prevention*
 27 *Authority the sum of three hundred seventy-five*
 28 *thousand dollars (\$375,000) to support the staffing,*
 29 *research, and operations of the authority from January 1,*
 30 *2000 to June 30, 2000.*

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