

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 26, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 3, 2000

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1348**

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**Introduced by Senator Vasconcellos**

January 11, 2000

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An act relating to parenting.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1348, as amended, Vasconcellos. Parenting education.

Existing law requires the State Department of Health Services to maintain a program of maternal and child health.

This bill would require the department to convene a summit on or before April 30, 2001, to develop a master plan for parenting education in nonschool settings. The bill would require the various state departments to participate in the summit and collect, complete, and submit to the summit available research regarding, among other things, the causal relationship between the presence or absence of parenting skills and dysfunctional behavior. The bill would require the department to report its findings to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2002.

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  
2 the following:

3 (a) Our failure to prepare young Californians to make  
4 informed, wise choices regarding whether to become,  
5 and how to be good, healthy, and effective parents results  
6 in too many unwise choices and too little healthy  
7 parenting for the next generation of Californians.

8 (b) Research indicates that over 50 percent of  
9 Californians imprisoned for violent crime were abused as  
10 children.

11 (c) Providing early and smart parenting education to  
12 every California pupil would help us overcome set  
13 failures.

14 (d) There are a variety of parenting education  
15 programs in a variety of venues throughout California,  
16 differing in their availability and in their accessibility with  
17 regard to geography, time, and location.

18 (e) The State of California must recognize, encourage,  
19 and build upon, rather than duplicate, the effective and  
20 available parenting education programs.

21 (f) The State of California must identify venues in  
22 which effective parenting education is not available, and  
23 strive to ensure access to parenting education in those  
24 venues.

25 (g) Every Californian must recognize the need,  
26 responsibility, and opportunity to prepare himself or  
27 herself better to become a healthy parent.

28 (h) Every California institution must recognize its  
29 responsibility, duty, and capacity to engage itself in  
30 supporting the development of Californians into  
31 healthier parents.

32 (i) The private sector, through major policy  
33 development foundations such as the California Wellness  
34 Foundation, has begun to recognize the fundamental  
35 benefits of parenting education in preventing crime and  
36 violence.

37 (j) The state should study particular strategies that are  
38 proving successful in effectively reaching and providing



1 parenting education to the most vulnerable of our  
2 population.

3 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting  
4 this act that the State of California convene a top level  
5 statewide summit to determine whether parenting  
6 education should be provided to every young Californian  
7 and, if so, to design for submission to the Legislature for  
8 its consideration, a comprehensive strategic action plan  
9 for ensuring that every young Californian gain the  
10 benefit of parenting education, in hopes of fostering the  
11 development of healthier parents, and thereby healthier  
12 families, children and adults.

13 SEC 3. (a) The Director of Health Services shall  
14 convene a summit on or before April 30, 2001, for the  
15 purpose of assessing whether it would be smart and wise  
16 for the state of California to develop a master plan for  
17 parenting education in nonschool settings. The master  
18 plan shall especially accommodate those persons who are  
19 no longer attending school in the year 2001.

20 (b) The summit shall include interested parties of all  
21 ideologies and persuasions, including significant  
22 representation from diverse communities, experts in  
23 parenting issues, family and child development experts,  
24 representatives of current providers, academic experts,  
25 business leaders, health professionals, experts in public  
26 school parenting education programs, parents, and  
27 children.

28 ~~(c) The director, or his or her designee, of each of the~~  
29 ~~departments listed in subdivision (d) shall participate in~~  
30 ~~the summit. To the extent that his or her department has~~  
31 ~~jurisdiction, each director shall collect, complete, and~~  
32 ~~submit to the summit the best research available~~  
33 ~~regarding what it takes to develop a whole child with~~  
34 ~~healthy self-esteem and a healthy sense of personal and~~  
35 ~~social responsibility and regarding the causal relationship~~  
36 ~~between good and healthy parenting, or lack thereof, to~~  
37 ~~dysfunctional behavior, as well as the costs for providing~~  
38 ~~this universal parenting education. The research~~  
39 ~~submitted to the summit shall also address the public costs~~  
40 ~~that result from dysfunctional behavior.~~



1 ~~(d)~~

2 (c) The director, or his or her designee, of each of the  
3 following departments shall participate in the summit as  
4 provided in subdivision ~~(e)~~ (d):

- 5 (1) The Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 6 (2) The Chairperson of the State Board of Education.
- 7 (3) The State Secretary of Education.
- 8 (4) The State Department of Social Services.
- 9 (5) The State Department of Mental Health.
- 10 (6) The State Department of Alcohol and Drug
- 11 Programs.
- 12 (7) The Department of the Youth Authority.
- 13 (8) The Department of Corrections.
- 14 (9) The Attorney General.

15 ~~(e)~~

16 (d) *To the extent that his or her department has*  
17 *jurisdiction, each director of the department listed in*  
18 *subdivision (c) shall collect, complete, and submit to the*  
19 *summit the best research available regarding what it*  
20 *takes to develop a whole child with healthy self-esteem*  
21 *and a healthy sense of personal and social responsibility*  
22 *and regarding the causal relationship between good and*  
23 *healthy parenting, or the lack thereof, to dysfunctional*  
24 *behavior, as well as the costs for providing this universal*  
25 *parenting education. The research submitted to the*  
26 *summit shall also address the public costs that result from*  
27 *dysfunctional behavior.*

28 (e) The objectives of the summit shall include, but not  
29 be limited to, the following:

- 30 (1) Development of an inventory of all parenting
- 31 education programs currently available in California.
- 32 (2) Determination of whether universal parenting
- 33 education for every young Californian would improve
- 34 the public health and safety of all Californians.
- 35 (3) If it is found to be valuable, the following shall be
- 36 included as part of a proposed master plan to be
- 37 submitted to the Legislature for its consideration.
- 38 (A) Development of a method by which parents of
- 39 newborns may receive parenting education in an



1 appropriate range of public and private nonschool  
2 settings.

3 (B) Identification of the classifications of licensed  
4 professionals who would be the most appropriate  
5 educators of parenting skills in nonschool settings,  
6 assessment of the need for the establishment of instructor  
7 training and continuing education requirements for  
8 these professionals, and development of mechanisms by  
9 which these professionals can be engaged in the practice  
10 of parenting education.

11 (C) Development of a method and curriculum in  
12 juvenile court school, homes, ranches, camps, and  
13 forestry camps, as well as a method for making parenting  
14 education available to all public high school students.

15 (D) Creation of a means for coordinating parenting  
16 education services, in consultation with the State  
17 Department of Education.

18 (E) Identification of the ways and means for  
19 developing the funding for the various options for  
20 parenting education.

21 (F) Identification and development of additional  
22 methods by which each of the state departments  
23 participating in this summit can ensure that Californians  
24 receive effective and useful parenting education.

25 ~~(h)~~

26 (f) The State Department of Health Services shall  
27 report its findings to the Legislature, including, if it  
28 concludes that it would be valuable to do so, organizing  
29 the recommendations of the summit into a proposed  
30 California master plan for parenting education, and shall  
31 submit that plan to the Legislature on or before January  
32 1, 2002.

33 ~~(i)~~

34 (g) The State Department of Health Services shall  
35 make every reasonable effort to secure private funding to  
36 underwrite the cost of this summit.

37 ~~(j)~~

38 (h) The State Department of Health Services shall not  
39 be responsible for travel costs and per diem associated



1 with this summit for any participant, except when  
2 required by state law or administrative policy.

3 ~~(k)~~

4 (i) After making available copies of the master plan to  
5 the Legislature and appropriate persons in the executive  
6 branch, the State Department of Health Services may  
7 make additional copies available to interested persons at  
8 a reasonable charge to cover costs of printing and mailing.

9 ~~(l)~~

10 (j) The State Department of Health Services shall  
11 evaluate the implementation of the summit's  
12 recommendations and shall make every reasonable effort  
13 to either use existing resources or secure private funding  
14 to underwrite this evaluation.

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