

**Assembly Committee on Human Services  
And  
Assembly Select Committee on Foster**

**Joint Informational Hearing  
March 7, 2006**

**Department of Social Services  
Complete List of 2001 – 2005 Chaptered Bills**

**2001/2002**

**AB 333 (Wright) Foster care**

**SUMMARY:** Requires foster care and group homes to provide that monthly child welfare worker visits include a private discussion between the foster child and the county social worker or probation officer, and prohibits the contents of the discussion from being disclosed to the home's staff, except under certain circumstances. (*Chapter 675, Statutes of 2001*)

**AB 364 (Aroner) Child welfare services**

**SUMMARY:** Provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that the Human Resources Workgroup of the Administration's Child Welfare Services Stakeholders Group include in its next planned report the core strategies needed to establish minimum caseload standards under the Group's proposed redesigned child welfare services system, and provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that the Human Resources Workgroup make recommendations for implementing the new caseload standards. (*Chapter 635, Statutes of 2002*)

**AB 636 (Steinberg) Child welfare services**

**SUMMARY:** Enacts the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act of 2001, which requires the Department of Social Services to establish the California Child and Family Service Review System, in order to review all county child welfare systems, and requires the California Health and Human Services Agency to convene a workgroup to establish a work plan by which the child and family service reviews shall be conducted. (*Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001*)

**AB 899 (Liu) Rights of Foster Children**

**SUMMARY:** Sets forth the policy of the state that children placed in foster care have certain rights, and would require social workers and facilities providing social services for children in foster care to provide those children with information regarding those rights. (*Chapter 683, Statutes of 2001*)

**AB 1261 (Migden) Emancipating foster youth**

**SUMMARY:** Increases the amount of cash savings an emancipating youth exiting the foster care system at age 18 is allowed to retain from \$5,000 to \$10,000 as a resource exemption, as long as the funds are used for purposes directly related to emancipation. (*Chapter 686, Statutes of 2001*)

**AB 1694 (Committee on Human Services) Foster care**

**SUMMARY:** Makes technical and clarifying changes to various statutes regarding licensing of relative caregivers, including permitting an able and willing nonrelative extended family member to provide a temporary placement for a child who has been taken into temporary custody. (*Chapter 918, Statutes of 2002*)

**AB 1695 (Committee on Human Services) Foster care**

**SUMMARY:** Conforms state law with new federal statutes and regulations relating to the placement of foster children in licensed or approved homes of non-relatives and relatives, and reiterates the Legislature's intent to continue prioritizing relatives as the most preferable caregivers for dependent children. (*Chapter 653, Statutes of 2001*)

**AB 2294 (Liu) Foster care**

**SUMMARY:** Expands the duties of the State Foster Care Ombudsperson to require him or her to compile and make available to the Legislature additional information, including the type and source of complaints received, to present and distribute this information in order to be used in developing policy recommendations, and provides that the ombudsperson shall be appointed for a term of 4 years, and permits the director to reappoint the ombudsperson for consecutive terms. (*Chapter 1160, Statutes of 2002*)

**SB 841 (Alpert) Foster care emancipating youth**

**SUMMARY:** Requires the Department of Social Services to provide technical assistance and training to help counties that elect to establish Early Start to Emancipation programs similar to a program established in Los Angeles County that provides services to foster youth as they transition from middle school to high school. (*Chapter 694, Statutes of 2001*)

**SB 884 (Escutia) Foster care**

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes a county to grant an exemption to hire an individual who would otherwise be prohibited from employment due to criminal background check results if the Director of Social Services has granted the county permission to issue criminal records exemptions, and requires the department to conduct an evaluation of the implementation of these provisions through random sampling. (*Chapter 445, Statutes of 2001*)

**SB 1505 (Kuehl) Child welfare services**

**SUMMARY:** Adds teen dating violence to the issues required to be covered by a statewide training program for county child protective service social workers. (*Chapter 354, Statutes of 2002*)

## 2003/2004

### **AB 408 (Steinberg) Foster children**

Requires juvenile courts to give attention to the development of relationships between foster youth aged 10 or older and requires case plans for youths 16 years or older to describe programs and services to assist them in independent living. (*Chapter 813, Statutes of 2003.*)

### **AB 458 (Chu) Foster children: discrimination**

Prohibits discrimination against foster children on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual preference and adds training on the rights of foster children to the curriculum for licensed foster parents. (*Chapter 331, Statutes of 2003.*)

### **AB 1986 (Wolk) Foster care; criminal records exemption**

Continues authority for counties (rather than the state) to grant exemptions from disqualification of prospective foster parents for certain crimes when county finds substantial and convincing evidence of good character. (*Chapter 290, Statutes of 2004.*)

### **AB 2795 (Wolk) Child Welfare Services; Program Improvement Plan**

Implements state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) by allowing deadline for case plan to extend to 60 days, and allowing 6-month extensions of Family Maintenance Services if needed. (*Chapter 332, Statutes of 2004.*)

### **SB 591 (Scott) Foster care**

Requires information regarding a foster child's medical condition, sibling interaction and parental visitation rights to be provided to the child's foster parents promptly after placement. Requires social worker evaluations to contain information about the willingness of a caregiver to provide legal permanency if reunification with the child's parents is unsuccessful. (*Chapter 812, Statutes of 2003.*)

### **SB 947 (Ducheny) Native American foster children**

Establishes a specific process for identifying children subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act and notifying relatives and the tribe of custody proceedings, gives priority for placement to relatives and allows intervention of the tribe. Expands the role of the tribe in a custody proceeding involving an Indian child. (*Chapter 469, Statutes of 2003.*)

## 2005

### **AB 363 (Chu) Child and Family Service Review System**

Creates the Child Welfare Services Outcomes and Accountability Fund, requests an appropriation and requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to establish a process for allocating the moneys for implementation of county program improvements. Creates a competitive grant process for counties to fund their System Improvement Plans which were created to make changes as recommended by a federal review and self-assessment. (*Chapter 296, Statutes of 2005*)

**AB 1633 (Evans) Foster children: high school: social security assistance**

Requests DSS in conjunction with stakeholders, develop best practice guidelines to assist counties in obtaining SSI/SSP benefits for foster youth. Extends eligibility for foster care benefits to 18-year olds seeking a high school equivalency degree, rather than a high school diploma as currently allowed. (*Chapter 641, Statutes of 2005*)

**AJR 10 (Chu) Foster care services: funding: Title IV-E Waiver** Urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to approve the state's application for a waiver pursuant to Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to permit California to more effectively and efficiently use federal foster care funds through a broader interpretation of services, allowing earlier intervention while children are at home, thereby avoiding costly out-of-home placements. (*Resolution Chapter 68, Statutes of 2005.*)

**SB 436 (Migden) Foster care: transitional housing**

Requires counties with transitional housing programs to report a description of currently available transitional housing resources in relation to the number of pregnant or parenting foster youth, and requires creation of a plan to address their unmet needs. (*Chapter 629, Statutes of 2005.*)

**SB 679 (Simitian) Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care: group homes: definition.** Allows San Mateo County to continue to run a publicly-operated non-detention group home, currently operating under a waiver set to expire in 2006. As heard in and approved by the Assembly Human Services Committee, allowed any county to operate such a facility. (*Chapter 268, Statutes of 2005*)