

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: California Alliance of Child and Family Services

BILL NUMBER: AB 2129
AUTHOR: K. Bass

BILL SUMMARY: Foster Care: Residentially Based Services

This bill would extend to January 1, 2014 the deadline for the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a plan to transform group home foster care into a system of residentially-based services (RBS).

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would not have a fiscal impact on DSS.

COMMENTS

Finance is opposed to this bill because it is inconsistent with the Administration's proposed budget trailer bill and lacks accountability measures to ensure county pilot programs are efficiently utilizing alternative program and funding models through the RBS system to move foster youth from high cost group residential care to lower levels of care or exit to permanency. The bill also does not provide a clarification of the definition of cost neutrality in implementing the RBS.

Existing law requires DSS to convene a workgroup of public and private stakeholders to develop a plan for transforming group home foster care into a RBS system by January 1, 2011.

While the extension of the statutory deadline for developing the RBS system, as provided for in this bill, is necessary for DSS to have adequate time to develop the RBS proposal, the bill lacks the accountability and definition of cost neutrality that is provided in the Administration's budget trailer bill. The Administration's proposal would provide for a statutory review of county pilot programs, after 18 months of county RBS pilot program adoption, to ensure that county RBS pilot program performance measures were being achieved. Further, the Administration's trailer bill would give DSS authority to terminate county participation in the RBS pilot in cases where program performance was not being achieved as proposed in county RBS pilot program proposals.

This bill also lacks a clear definition of cost neutrality, which could affect the performance and implementation of the RBS pilot. The Administration's trailer bill would provide clarification that cost neutrality could be achieved across multiple fiscal years, with the understanding that higher upfront costs would be needed to implement the RBS pilots.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								Fund Code
	SO	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	LA	CO	PROP	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	
5180/Social Svcs	SO	No			-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----	0001

Analyst/Principal (0512) J. Wordlaw	Date	Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann L. Mangat	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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