

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 2, 2010
POSITION: Support
SPONSOR: California Alliance of Child and Family Services

BILL NUMBER: AB 2129
AUTHOR: K. Bass
RELATED BILLS: AB 1453 (Chapter 466, Statutes of 2007)

BILL SUMMARY: Foster Care: Residentially Based Services

This bill would extend 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) to January 1, 2014. This bill would also require the DSS to conduct a review of the county residentially based services program after 18 months and allows the DSS to terminate the county's participation in the residentially based services reform project if project goals are not met. This bill would also extend the timeframe pilot projects can operate to test alternative program design and funding models for transforming individual group home programs into residentially based services programs.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would result in no new costs to the state. The May Revision to the 2010-11 Governor's Budget included \$185,000 General Fund for this pilot in 2010-11. This is to be funded from savings related to the Adoption Assistance Program. Due to implementation delays, the 2010-11 cost will likely be less than \$185,000 General Fund, but an updated estimate is not available at this time.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance supports this bill as it is identical to a piece of the Administration's proposed omnibus social services Trailer Bill. This bill would not result in any additional costs relative to what is already budgeted and would provide the timeframe necessary for the DSS to develop the proposal to transform group home foster care to a system of RBS.

Existing law requires the 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 with pilot projects not to be extended past January 1, 2013.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- This bill has been amended to mirror the Administration's proposed trailer bill language and to address our concerns with the previous version's lacking 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 group care to lower levels of care or exit to permanency. The previous version of the bill lacked these important accountability measures.
The bill also provides a clarification of the definition of cost neutrality in implementing the RBS that allows cost neutrality to be achieved across multiple fiscal years, with the understanding that upfront

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Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved
Position Disapproved

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AUTHOR

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costs would be necessary to implement the pilot projects. This important clarification was not in the previous version of the bill.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	
5180/Social Svcs	LA	No				See Fiscal Summary			0001