

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 05/25/2012
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 2547
AUTHOR: Blumenfield, Bob

BILL SUMMARY: Homeless youth: Statewide Office of the Homeless Youth Advocate.

This bill would create the Statewide Office of the Homeless Youth Advocate (Office). This Office would report directly to the Secretary of California Health and Human Services and would be required to coordinate state programs, services, and information for homeless youth and report biennially to the Governor and the Legislature on these activities.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Finance estimates that the workload associated with this bill would require three to five staff at an annual cost ranging from \$294,000 to \$490,000 General Fund. While some federal funds may eventually be available for the functions of this office, all initial funding for the Office would be incurred by the General Fund.

COMMENTS

Finance is opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- The California Child Welfare Council (Council) was established by the Child Welfare Leadership and Accountability Act of 2006 and is responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies and the courts that serve the children in the child welfare system. While this bill specifically focuses on homeless youth, it is likely that many of today's homeless youth were once in the child welfare system. Since the Council is already performing significant coordination activities relating to youth, it may be more appropriate to add homeless youth as one of the focuses of the Council.
- This bill is counter to Control Section 3.91 of the Budget Act of 2011, which abolished several advisory bodies, boards, and commissions in order to achieve efficiencies within state government. This bill would establish a new advisory body with responsibilities that overlap with the responsibilities of an existing workgroup.
- This bill would result in General Fund costs to support the Office. Notwithstanding any potential policy merit, the creation of a new entity that creates a General Fund cost pressure is inappropriate during this time of limited resources.

The author states that California does not have a single state entity that is responsible for coordinating services for ensuring the safety of homeless youth. This measure is modeled after the Colorado Office of Homeless Youth Services and is intended to break down barriers that make it difficult for homeless youth to access services, provide better collaboration and effective services among multiple local, state and federal programs, and improve and expand services to a highly at-risk population. The Department of Finance is concerned that the creation of a new office may be unnecessary if the California Child Welfare Council is already fulfilling some of the objectives of this bill.

Analyst/Principal (0560) A.Bazos	Date	Program Budget Manager Ken DaRosa	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

AMENDMENT DATE

BILL NUMBER

Blumenfield, Bob

05/25/2012

AB 2547

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)						
	CO	PROP					Fund	
	RV	98	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	FC	2014-2015
								Code
0530/Secty H&HS	SO	No	A	--	C	294-490	C	294-490 0001