

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1979 (Friedman)

As Amended August 20, 2020

Majority vote

**SUMMARY:**

Addresses the affordable housing needs of youth in the child welfare system by: expanding the definition of a supervised independent living setting (SILS) to include a transitional living setting approved by the county to support youth entering or reentering care or transitioning between placements, and requiring counties to examine a county's ability to meet the emergency housing needs of nonminor dependents (NMDs), among other things.

**The Senate Amendments:**

- 1) Add language that provides that the California Community Care Facilities Act does not apply to a transitional living setting, as specified.
- 2) Delete language that would have permitted a county to elect to complete an inspection to ensure a supervised independent living placement meets health and safety standards through alternative methods, as specified, thereby reverting to the requirements enumerated in current law.
- 3) Delete language that would require a county to continue to approve payment to a transitional housing placement provider for a period of up to 14 days, as specified, and add language that would instead make this requirement permissive.
- 4) Delete language that prohibits a transitional housing placement provider from filling an NMD's place if the NMD is temporarily absent from a placement for 14 days or less, and, further, delete language that requires a county to continue to pay board and care costs for up to 14 days, as specified.
- 5) Add language that prohibits a transitional housing placement provider, if the county continues to pay the board and care costs for up to 14 days during an NMD's absence, from providing a removal notice or from filling an NMD's place in the program.
- 6) Add language that requires California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to issue guidance encouraging counties to approve payment during temporary absences from the program as a best practice, consistent with federal law, to prevent NMD housing instability.
- 7) Make technical changes.

**COMMENTS:**

*Youth homelessness:* Youth who age out of the foster care system are at high risk of becoming homeless; a 2013 study published in the Journal of Public Health found that between 31% and 46% of former foster youth had been homeless at least once by age 26. According to the study, the odds of becoming homeless by age 19 were higher for youth who had been physically abused before entering foster care, had run away more than once while in foster care, had engaged in delinquent behaviors, were placed in a group care setting at baseline, and did not feel very close to a biological parent or grandparent.

*Supervised Independent Living Placement:* A SILP is a placement option geared towards nonminor dependents (NMDs) who are prepared to live independently with supervision and support from the child welfare or probation system. In order to be placed in a SILP, a youth must undergo a SILP readiness assessment to determine if they are prepared to live independently. If the assessment determines that a NMD can live independently, the youth can receive their foster care placement directly and is able to live completely on their own. Types of SILPs include private market housing, such as apartments, houses, single room occupancies; dormitories; and, university settings.

*Certified residential housing units:* California also offers the THP-NMD, which provides NMDs with a placement option that provides transitional housing and supportive housing based on a Transitional Independent Living Placement (TILP). Types of placements under THP-NMD include: host families where a youth lives with a caring adult who is selected and approved by the transitional housing placement provider; a single site where an NMD lives in an apartment, condominium, or a single family home rented or leased by the housing provider (one or more adult employees of the housing provider lives on site); or, a remote site placement where the NMD lives in a single housing unit,

*Need for this bill:* The provisions of this bill seek to address the housing needs of older youth participating in extended foster care. By expanding the definition of a supervised independent living setting to include a transitional living setting approved by the county to support youth who are entering or reentering foster care or transitioning between placements, prohibiting transitional housing providers from issuing a removal notice or filling an NMD's placement if the county continues board and care costs, and by requiring counties to evaluate their ability to meet the emergency housing needs of NMDs, the provisions of this bill seek to reduce barriers to affordable housing faced by older youth in California's child welfare system.

**According to the Author:**

"Research has shown that the EFC [Extended Foster Care] Program has numerous benefits for participants. Overall, more time spent in EFC was found to decrease the number of economic hardships youth encountered. In fact, more time in EFC was significantly associated with a reduced risk of homelessness. However, the research has also shown that even with the benefits available through the EFC Program, many youth are still experiencing homelessness.

"The purpose of EFC is to prevent homelessness among youth as they enter early adulthood. However, without sufficient supported housing, the vision of EFC is falling flat. [This bill] attempts to bridge the housing gaps for youth in EFC by requiring counties to assess their ability to meet the housing needs of individuals in the EFC Program, reduce barriers, and ensure that youth live in health and safe facilities."

**Arguments in Support:**

The Alliance for Children's Rights, as a part of a coalition of organizations advocating on behalf of foster youth, writes "[This bill] helps address impacts of the global pandemic on our youth by assisting programs to address the new realities of youth who may need to be quarantined and streamlining the SILP approval processes to allow youth to become housed more quickly."

**Arguments in Opposition:**

None on file

**FISCAL COMMENTS:**

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) Cost pressures of \$3.5 million (General Fund), annually ongoing, to CDSS to pay for transitional housing providers for up to 14 days in a calendar month in which the foster youth is absent and does not return to the same provider. Although the duration and number of absences is difficult to ascertain, this figure assumes \$120 per day per child rate.
- 2) Cost pressures of \$515,000 General Fund in state staff for the evaluation for counties to assess emergency placement and to add non-minor dependents to the evaluation.
- 3) Unknown costs to counties to each evaluate their ability to meet the emergency housing needs of youth in extended foster care.

**VOTES:****ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 8-0-0**

**YES:** Reyes, Mathis, Arambula, Choi, Friedman, Gipson, Maienschein, Mark Stone

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 18-0-0**

**YES:** Gonzalez, Bigelow, Bauer-Kahan, Bloom, Bonta, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Megan Dahle, Diep, Eggman, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Petrie-Norris, McCarty, Robert Rivas, Voepel

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0-2**

**YES:** Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bonta, Brough, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chen, Chiu, Choi, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Daly, Diep, Eggman, Flora, Fong, Frazier, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Gloria, Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kamlager, Kiley, Lackey, Levine, Limón, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Obernolte, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Smith, Mark Stone, Ting, Voepel, Waldron, Weber, Wicks, Wood, Rendon

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Muratsuchi, Quirk

**SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1**

**YES:** Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Bates, Beall, Borgeas, Bradford, Caballero, Chang, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Galgiani, Glazer, Lena Gonzalez, Grove, Hertzberg, Hill, Hueso, Hurtado, Jackson, Leyva, McGuire, Melendez, Mitchell, Monning, Moorlach, Morrell, Nielsen, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Stern, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener, Wilk

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Jones

**UPDATED:**

VERSION: August 20, 2020

CONSULTANT: Kelsy Castillo / HUM. S. / (916) 319-2089

FN: 0003446