

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 46 (Luz Rivas)
As Amended April 26, 2021
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Establishes an advisory California Youth Empowerment Commission with the goal of providing meaningful opportunities for civic engagement to improve the quality of life for California's disconnected and disadvantaged youth.

Major Provisions

- 1) Provides legislative findings and declarations.
- 2) Establishes the California Youth Empowerment Commission (Commission) made up of 25 voting commissioners who, after an initial staggered appointment terms designated by the Governor for their appointees, serve two year terms. This bill defines additional terms for eligibility to be a commissioner and defines commissioner responsibilities.
- 3) Directs the Governor to appoint 21 Commissioners meeting the following requirements:
 - a) With the exception of the at-large commissioner, two of the commissioners shall reside, work, or attend school in each of the following regions: Superior California, North Coast, San Francisco Bay Area, Northern San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast, Southern San Joaquin, Inland Empire, Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego/Imperial regions.
 - b) Ten of the commissioners shall be between 14 to 18 years of age.
 - c) Ten of the commissioners shall be between 18 to 25 years of age.
 - d) At least 10 commissioners shall have experienced a physical disability, youth homelessness, foster care, or juvenile incarceration.
 - e) One at-large commissioner, who may be between 14 to 25 years of age.
- 4) Directs the Senate Committee on Rules to appoint two at-large public members to the Commission.
- 5) Directs the Speaker of the Assembly to appoint two at-large public members to the Commission.
- 6) Appoints the following nonvoting members of the commission to include one Member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, one Member of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Secretary of California Health and Human Services
- 7) Outlines that the commission to be advisory in nature, for the main purpose of providing meaningful opportunities for civic engagement to improve the quality of life for California's disconnected and disadvantaged youth.

- 8) Requires the commission to conduct regular meetings, in accordance with specified timeframes and procedures, and, among other duties, formally advise and make recommendations to the Legislature, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Governor, on various legislative and fiscal issues affecting youth. The bill allows commissioners to attend meeting through a teleconferencing platform if they are unable to travel to the meeting, provided other provisions of existing law are met.
- 9) Authorizes the commission to draft and approve resolutions, draft model legislation, provide testimony during legislative committee meetings, conduct public hearings, and award prizes or direct grants to organizations.
- 10) Requires the Governor to appoint an executive director of the California Youth Empowerment Commission to assist the commission in carrying out its work.
- 11) Authorizes the commission to accept gifts and grants, and creates the Youth Commission Fund in the State Treasury, with moneys deposited in the fund available for expenditure, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to carry out the duties of the commission.

COMMENTS

This bill establishes the California Youth Empowerment Commission (Commission) which would formally advise and make recommendations to the Legislature, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Governor on issues and matters that impact the quality of life for California's disconnected and disadvantaged youth. The Commission would conduct full commission meetings at least every other month, and it would publish an annual report to the Legislature, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and Governor detailing the activities, issues, demographics, budget, and outcomes of the commission.

Additionally, the Commission would lead community engagement work through the commission's public hearings, outreach efforts, public awareness campaigns, and grant programs. While there is no current California statewide youth commission, California has experience with this model like the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls or the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, both which have been charged with engaging the public to define challenges faced by California's most vulnerable populations and policy solutions to addresses these challenges to the California State Legislature, the Governor, and the greater public. Models for youth commissions can be found in other states as well as on the local level.

According to the Author

"Youth deserve to have their voices heard. AB 46 will establish a 25-member youth commission that will serve as a statewide advisory body to the state government. At least half of the commissioners must have experienced youth homelessness, foster care, juvenile incarceration, or have special needs to ensure representation from traditionally underserved groups. The Commission's duties will include examining and discussing policy, holding meetings and roundtable discussions with youth advocates and the public, and investing in youth by providing grants, with strict oversight mechanisms, to programs that seek to address youth concerns. Our democracy is better served when everyone, especially youth, is given an opportunity to contribute their own unique and invaluable perspectives in policy decisions that have far-reaching ramifications for our future generations"

Arguments in Support

According to the California Coalition For Youth, one of the sponsors and supporters of this bill, "All too often, the state government and adults make critical decisions on policy affecting the lives of young Californians, without any direct input from the youth themselves. Now more than ever, issues affecting youth have become more pressing, such as climate change, racial justice and gun safety, and young people find themselves frustrated with their lack of participation in shaping their futures. Furthermore, foster youth, incarcerated youth, and youth who suffer from other adverse childhood experiences seldom have the resources to advocate for themselves. There is a lack of state leadership on engaging local youth organizations and unifying them under a single goal: empowering youth."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

Estimated total costs of \$1.4 million (General Fund (GF)) to establish the commission and meet the requirements of the bill. These costs include one-time costs of \$152,000 (GF) for equipment and supplies and ongoing costs of \$1.3 million (GF) annually for the executive director and four additional full-time staff to staff the commission and conduct fund raising activities, commissioner per diem, operating expenses and conference and meeting expenses.

This bill specifies the commission is to be funded by both public and private funding sources and authorizes the commission to seek out funding and in-kind contribution from foundations, nonprofit organizations, public and private entities, and other individuals or groups in order to carry out the work of the commission.

VOTES

ASM ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW: 6-0-1

YES: Petrie-Norris, Burke, Gray, Lackey, Medina, Rodriguez

ABS, ABST OR NV: Patterson

ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 8-0-0

YES: Calderon, Davies, Arambula, Choi, Gipson, Stone, Villapudua, Ward

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-2

YES: Lorena Gonzalez, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Davies, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Levine, Quirk, Robert Rivas, Akilah Weber, Holden, Luz Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bigelow, Megan Dahle

UPDATED

VERSION: April 26, 2021

CONSULTANT: Jesse Cuevas / A. & A.R. / (916) 319-3600

FN: 0000649