

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 46 (Luz Rivas)

As Amended September 2, 2021

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the California Youth Empowerment Commission, with the goal of providing opportunities for civic engagement to improve the quality of life for California's disconnected and disadvantaged youth.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Reduce the number of voting commissioners on the California Youth Empowerment Commission from 25 to 13.
- 2) Change the number of public members appointed by the Governor from 21 to 11, and conforms the number of commissioners from each specified demographic group accordingly.
- 3) Specify that the Governor may appoint alternatives for any of the eleven commissioners.
- 4) Provide that in the event of a commissioner vacancy, the alternative will fill the position, and the appointing power shall appoint a new alternative within 60 days of the vacancy.
- 5) Provide that within six months of establishing the commission, and no later than March 1 of each subsequent year, the executive director shall carry out their specified duties.
- 6) Permit a parent or guardian to receive actual necessary traveling expenses if they accompany a minor between the age of 14 and 18 on official commission business.
- 7) Specify that the commission shall conduct full meetings at least every other month, with the first meeting in August 2022, or no later than eight months after funding is made available.
- 8) Establish that grant application criteria and procedures shall be subject to the availability of funding.
- 9) Specify deputy directors may assist the executive director with their duties.
- 10) Provide that this bill shall be implemented only to the extent that funds have been provided in the annual Budget Act or the Department of Finance ascertains that sufficient funding has been provided and publishes notice of that determination online.
- 11) Specify that the bill provisions will be repealed on January 1, 2027.

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 meetings at least every other month, as specified, and publish an annual report to the Legislature, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and Governor.

Additionally, the Commission may lead community engagement work, including holding public hearings with community and youth organizations, conducting public awareness campaigns, providing testimony at any Legislative committee hearing, and creating grant programs.

While California currently has no statewide youth commission, the state has created commissions, such as the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, similarly tasked with defining and presenting policy solutions to challenges faced by select populations to the Legislature, executive branch, and general public. Additionally, models for advisory youth commissions can be found in other states, with the goal of providing an opportunity for youth input in policymaking.

According to the Author

"Youth deserve to have their voices heard. AB 46 will establish a 13-member youth commission that will serve as a statewide advisory body to the state government. Youth under the age of 18 participating in this Commission must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. 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

California Coalition for Youth, co-sponsor with four other youth organizations, states, "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... Youth commissions have proven their effectiveness in engaging young people on a variety of levels. There are already over 130 local youth commissions in municipal governments in California alone, each of which tackle youth issues in their communities. It is time for California to join over 20 states, including Washington, Maryland, and Louisiana, by creating a state-wide youth advisory commission to solicit youth voice on policies affecting them."

Arguments in Opposition

No opposition on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill has "unknown, ongoing annual costs in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars to establish and continue the operation of the Commission. These costs include support staff for the Commission as well as operating expenses and equipment, and per diem and travel reimbursement costs for commissioners."

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

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0-6

YES: Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bryan, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chen, Chiu, Choi, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Daly, Davies, Flora, Fong, Frazier, Friedman, Gabriel, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Lorena Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kiley, Lackey, Lee, Levine, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nguyen, O'Donnell, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, Wood, Rendon

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bigelow, Megan Dahle, Gallagher, Patterson, Seyarto, Smith

SENATE FLOOR: 30-4-6

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Becker, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dodd, Durazo, Glazer, Gonzalez, Hertzberg, Hueso, Hurtado, Kamlager, Laird, Leyva, Limón, McGuire, Min, Newman, Ochoa Bogh, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener

NO: Grove, Jones, Melendez, Nielsen

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bates, Borgeas, Dahle, Eggman, Stern, Wilk

UPDATED

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