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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

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### AB 369 (Zbur) - Foster care: independent living

**Version:** May 18, 2023

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** July 3, 2023

**Policy Vote:** HUMAN S. 5 - 0

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Agnes Lee

**Bill Summary:** AB 369 would, among other provisions, expand eligibility for the Independent Living Program (ILP) to age 23, if a county opts to provide the expanded program.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- Unknown, ongoing General Fund costs to the extent ILP services would be expanded.
- Unknown, ongoing General Fund costs for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for state administration and automation costs.
- Unknown, ongoing General Fund costs that may result from changes in the treatment of resources for purposes of eligibility for foster care benefit payments.
- To the extent the bill increases county costs already borne by a local agency for programs or levels of service mandated by the 2011 Realignment, the bill would apply to local agencies only to the extent that the state provides annual funding for the cost increases.

**Background:** The ILP provides training, services, and benefits to assist current and former foster youth in achieving self-sufficiency prior to, and after leaving, the foster care system. In California, each county is able to design services to meet a wide range of individual needs and circumstances, and to coordinate services with other federal and state agencies engaged in similar activities. To be eligible to receive ILP services, a youth must be at least 16 and can remain eligible until the day before the youth turns 21 years of age, provided certain criteria are met.

Services include living skills, money management, decision making, building self-esteem, financial assistance with college or vocational school attendance, educational resources, housing (such as Transitional Housing), and employment services. Up to 30 percent of federal funds may be used to support housing needs such as room and board for eligible youth. Additionally, counties can provide stipends to support the independent living needs of the youth so they can participate fully in the offered ILP services.

Current law prohibits, in addition to certain personal property, a ward or dependent child who is 16 years of age or older, or a nonminor dependent who is participating in a

transitional independent living case plan, to retain resources with a combined value of more than \$10,000.

**Proposed Law:** Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Permit eligible children to be served by the ILP up to 23 years of age in counties that opt to provide ILP services to youth up to age 23.
- Require CDSS to develop a plan to, among other provisions, update and upgrade curriculum to facilitate successful transitions to adulthood and increase consistency across counties.
- Remove the existing \$10,000 monetary value limit and instead allow eligible individuals to retain resources consistent with federal law, and further modify how the resources are treated for purposes of eligibility for foster care benefit payments.

**-- END --**