
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1314
Author: Ahrens (D)
Amended: 8/29/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 4-0, 7/7/25
AYES: Arreguín, Becker, Durazo, Limón
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-1, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Transitional housing placement providers

SOURCE: California Alliance of Child and Family Services

DIGEST: This bill requires counties and Transitional Housing Placement Program contracts to ensure that decisions about room sharing are led by the program participant and are agreed upon in collaboration with the transitional housing placement provider. Requires all counties and program contracts to follow, and not have requirements more stringent than, the requirements specified in Chapter 7 of Division 6 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Community Care Facilities Act. Requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to administer and license community care facilities providing nonmedical services, including adult day programs and residential facilities, among others. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 1500 et seq.)

- 2) Requires CDSS to license transitional housing placement providers. Defines “transitional housing placement provider” as an organization licensed by CDSS to provide transitional housing to foster children who are at least 16 years of age to promote their transition to adulthood. A transitional housing placement provider shall be privately operated and organized on a nonprofit basis. (HSC section 1559.110(a)(1); HSC section 1502(a)(12))
- 3) Defines “Transitional Housing Placement Program” (Program) as the licensed components, as well as the components that are certified by the Program as meeting licensing requirements.
 - a) The licensed components are the administrative office that provides administrative and operational functions, and the sub-administrative offices.
 - b) The certified components are the units and staff residential units that also may house or allow access to Program participants. (22 CCR section 86001(t)(2))
- 4) Defines “nonminor dependent” (NMD) as a current or former foster youth who is between 18 and 20 years of age; in foster care under the responsibility of the county welfare department, county probation department, or Indian tribe; and is has a transitional independent living case plan. (Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 11400(v))
- 5) Authorizes a transitional housing placement provider to operate either a Transitional Housing Placement Program for minor foster children or for NMDs. Requires transitional housing placement providers to provide supervised transitional housing services to foster children who are at least 16 years of age. (HSC section 1559.110(a)(2); HSC section 1559.110(b))
- 6) Requires a transitional housing placement provider applicant, in order to be licensed and be eligible for payment of Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care benefits, to obtain certification from the applicable county specifying whether the facility will serve foster youth at least 16 years of age and not be more than 18 years of age, NMDs, or both, as follows:
 - a) A program serving foster children at least 16 years of age and not more than 18 years of age shall obtain a certification entitled “Transitional Housing Placement Program for minor foster children” (THP-M).
 - b) A program serving nonminor dependents at least 18 years of age and not more than 21 years of age shall obtain a certification entitled “Transitional

Housing Placement Program for nonminor dependents” (THP-NMD). (WIC section 16522.1(a))

- 7) Requires a transitional housing placement provider, prior to licensure, to obtain program certification from the applicable county. Defines “applicable county” as the county in which the administrative office or subadministrative office of a transitional housing placement provider is located, or a primary placing county. (HSC section 1559.110(a)(3))
- 8) Requires transitional housing placement providers to certify that housing units are adequate, safe, and sanitary. Provides that transitional housing units include any of the following:
 - a) A host family with whom a participant lives in an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium owned, rented, or leased by the host family, with supervised transitional housing services provided by the licensed transitional housing placement provider.
 - b) A staffed site in which a participant lives in an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium owned, rented, or leased by a transitional housing placement provider either with an adult employee of the provider who provides supervision or in a building in which one or more adult employees of the provider reside and provide supervision.
 - c) A remote site in which a participant lives independently in an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium owned, rented, or leased by a transitional housing placement provider under the supervision of the provider if CDSS provides approval. Requires the remote site option to only be available to NMDs. (HSC section 1559.110(c-d))
- 9) Requires CDSS to adopt regulations to govern licensed transitional housing placement providers. Requires the regulations to be age appropriate and recognize that NMDs who are about to exit from the foster care system should be subject to fewer restrictions than those who are foster children. Requires the regulations provide for all of the following at a minimum:
 - a) Require programs that serve both minor foster children and NMDs to have separate rules and program design, as appropriate, for these two groups of youth.
 - b) Allow NMDs to have the greatest amount of freedom possible in order to prepare them for their transition to adulthood, as specified.

- c) Maintain a program staffing ratio for minor foster children of case manager to participant not to exceed 1 to 12, inclusive.
 - d) Maintain a program staffing ratio for NMDs of case manager to participant not to exceed a shared average caseload of 1 to 12, inclusive, with a designated lead case manager assigned to each youth.
 - e) Allow a minor or NMD participant to share a bedroom or unit in a transitional housing program with any of the following persons:
 - i) Another participant, including a participant sibling or coparent, as approved by the provider.
 - ii) A participant in Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus), as approved by the provider.
 - iii) A nonparticipant roommate, sibling, or coparent, as approved by the provider on a case-by-case basis, as specified by CDSS.
 - (1) A provider shall give priority to program participants.
 - (2) A provider shall allow a current program participant residing within a unit to reject inclusion of a nonparticipant into their existing unit.
 - iv) The participant's children.
 - v) Any other person as specified by CDSS.
 - f) Any adult who is not a participant, including participants in THP-Plus, and who resides with a participant shall obtain a criminal record clearance or exemption, as specified.
 - g) All counties and program contracts shall allow individual program participants and other individuals, as specified, to share bedrooms, bathrooms, and units together, regardless of gender identity. County program contracts shall allow providers and participants to make best matches to allow for gender flexibility. (HSC section 1559.110(g))
- 10) Defines "gender identify" as a person's identify based on the individual's stated gender identity, without regard to whether the self-identified gender accords with the individual's physical appearance, surgical history, genitalia, legal sex, sex assigned at birth, or name and sex, as it appears in medical records, and without regard to any contrary statement by any other person, including a family member, conservator, or legal representative. Provides that

an individual who lacks the present ability to communicate their gender identity shall retain the gender identity most recently expressed by that individual. States that the Gender Recognition Act (2017) established three equally recognized genders in California: female, male, and nonbinary. (22 CCR section 86001(g)(2))

- 11) Allows CDSS to implement, interpret, or make specific changes made by means of all-county letters or similar instructions from CDSS until regulations are adopted. Provides that these all-county letters or similar written instructions shall have the same force and effect as regulations until the adoption of regulations. (HSC section 1559.110(l))
- 12) Defines “THP-Plus” as a transitional housing placement program not licensed by CDSS, but certified by counties to provide housing and supportive services, as needed, to THP-Plus tenants and THP participants who are aged 18-21, as specified. (22 CCR section 86001(t)(4))
- 13) Defines “former foster youth” as a child or NMD who had been removed by the juvenile court from the custody of their parent, legal guardian, or Indian custodian, ordered into a placement, as specified, and for whom juvenile court jurisdiction was terminated while the youth remained in placement. (HSC section 50807)
- 14) Provides that a former foster youth, who is 18 to 24 years of age, inclusive, who has exited from the foster care system on or after their 18th birthday and elects to participate in Transitional Housing Program-Plus, is eligible for transitional housing if the former youth has not received services for more than a total of 36 months, whether or not consecutive. Requires the participant to enter into a transitional independent living plan that shall be mutually agreed upon, and annually reviewed, by the former foster youth and the applicable county welfare or probation department or independent living program coordinator. Requires the participant to inform the county of any changes to conditions specified in the agreed-upon plan that affect eligibility, as specified. (WIC section 11403.2(a)(2))

This bill:

- 1) Requires counties and program contracts to ensure that decisions about sharing rooms are led by the program participant and agreed upon in collaboration with the provider.

- 2) Prohibits, if a county contracts with a transitional housing placement provider, a contract from containing terms that create unreasonable barriers for a qualified foster youth's admission into or participation in the program. Requires the contract to be developed to provide maximum flexibility to meet the needs of the minor dependents and NMDs served by the programs in the specific county contracting with the provider. Requires the contract to be developed with the understanding that, unless modified by a court order, an NMD has the same legal decisionmaking authority as an adult.
- 3) Provides that CDSS is not required to review contracts between a county and contracted transitional housing placement provider. Provides that a county is not required to enter into a contract with a transitional housing placement provider.

Background

Purpose of this Bill. According to the author, "Supporting our youth during critical moments and transitions in their lives is essential. Transitional housing offers former foster youth a pathway to develop the necessary skills for independent living. The number of 18 to 20-year-olds re-entering foster care has increased by 105% from 2022 to 2024. This alarming rise highlights the urgent need to enhance flexibility in our transitional housing programs, ensuring that as many young people as possible can find suitable placements."

Transitional Housing Placement Program for Minors (THP-M). THP-M placements provide safe living environments for youth who are 16 to 18 years old and participating in an independent living program. The goal of this placement is to provide youth with a housing environment where they can safely learn and practice independent living and self-sufficiency. Participants are able to live alone, with CDSS approval, with a host family, or with roommates in apartments or single-family dwellings. Participating youth are supported and supervised by Program staff (who sometimes live onsite), county social workers, and independent living program coordinators. The THP agency, county social worker, and independent living program coordinators provide the youth with supportive services including, but not limited to: educational guidance, employment counseling, and assistance in reaching the youth's emancipation goals outlined in the youth's transitional independent living plan. Program rules prohibit temporary housing accommodations, including supervised or privately operated shelters, and temporary housing provided by friends or family.

Transitional Housing Placement Program for Nonminor Dependents (THP-NMD).

THP-NMD placements are certified residential housing units that provide NMDs, 18 to 21 year olds, with transitional housing and supportive housing based on the youth's transitional independent living plan. Youth participating in a THP-NMD placement receive case management, supervision, and supportive services from their THP-NMD provider. The goal of these services is to help the NMD transition to independent living by helping them meet education goals, obtain gainful employment, learn financial management and other daily living skills. NMDs are placed in THP-NMD settings based on an assessment their strengths and needs, and their THP-NMD setting may use any of the following three housing models:

- Host Family: The NMD lives with a caring adult who is selected and approved by the THP provider.
- Single Site: The NMD lives in an apartment, condominium, or single family dwelling rented or leased by the THP-NMD provider, in which one or more adult employees of the THP-NMD provider resides on site.
- Remote Site: The NMD lives in a single housing unit rented or leased by the housing provider. The NMD lives independently but still receives regular supervision from the provider.

LGBTQ+ and Gender Expansive Youth. CDSS is working to improve outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth in foster care by working with stakeholders through a partnership with the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression Advisory Committee. Together, this group works to implement legislation, technical assistance resources, and to establish new tools to improve the well-being of LGBTQ+ youth in foster care. Several policies have been implemented at the recommendation of the workgroup over the last few years, all with the goal of promoting affirming placements and positive developmental experiences for LGBTQ+ and gender-expansive foster youth. CDSS released a Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression Resource Guide in 2020 for children's residential providers and caregivers to raise awareness about and how to respond to challenges faced by gender expansive youth. The guide includes ways to create safe spaces for youth, ensure they have access to services, how to be responsive if the youth expresses discomfort in their placement or lack of support because of their gender identity.

AB 2802 (Maienschein, Chapter 245, Statutes of 2024) required counties and THP operators to allow participants to choose who they share living spaces with regardless of gender identity and expanded who a THP participant could share a bedroom or unit with to include a nonparticipant roommate, a nonparticipant or participant sibling, and a nonparticipant or participant coparent, as approved by the

provider. AB 2802 also allowed current participants to refuse to share a unit with a nonparticipant. This bill would require that decisions about sharing rooms are led by the program participant and are agreed upon in collaboration with the provider and county.

THP Contracts. Counties may choose to contract with a THP provider. According to the sponsors of this bill, some county contracts have restrictions that do not match licensing requirements, such as:

- Contracts that do not allow more than one person per room, while licensing regulations allow up to two people to share a room.
- Contracts that do not serve youth outside county lines, while licensing regulations allow youth to be served within two hours of the provider.
- Contracts that require the county social worker to inspect properties already licensed by the state.

According to the sponsors, these restrictions have made youth placement more challenging than needed, which delays the provision of services to this population. This bill would prohibit a THP contract from containing terms that create unreasonable barriers for a qualified foster youth's admission into or participation in the program; and requires the contract to be developed to provide maximum flexibility to meet the needs of minor dependents and NMDs.

CDSS is the state-level department that oversees rulemaking, licensing, and program funding for THP programs. Counties have the option of providing a THP or THP-Plus program, and counties have the discretion to develop memoranda of understanding, interagency agreements, or contracts as required by individual county policies. CDSS does not oversee or review THP contracts. This bill would provide that CDSS is not required to review THP contracts, and that counties are not required to enter into a contract with a THP provider.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 534 (Schiavo) would require a contract for a THP or THP-Plus provider have an initial term of three years, with an option for the contract to be renewed twice for an additional one year per renewal, followed by an option to renew the contract for additional 10-year terms. AB 534 died on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

AB 2802 (Maienschein, Chapter 245, Statutes of 2024) required counties and operators of transitional housing placement programs to allow participants to choose who they share living spaces with regardless of gender identity and allow for gender flexibility. The bill expanded the type of nonparticipant or participant sibling and participant's co-parent, as approved by the provider. The bill allowed current participants to refuse to share a unit with a nonparticipant.

AB 1979 (Friedman, Chapter 141, Statutes of 2020) expanded the definition of a supervised independent living setting, as provided, required counties to examine their ability to meet the emergency housing needs of nonminor dependents, and preserved a nonminor dependent's transitional housing placement during an absence of up to 14 days.

AB 531 (Friedman, 2019) would have allowed certain approved caregivers of youth in extended foster care to convert to a host family without additional certification, required counties to examine their ability to meet the emergency housing needs of nonminor dependents, and allowed counties, upon appropriation, to request funds for the purpose of providing housing navigation services to youth. AB 531 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 612 (Mitchell, Chapter 731, Statutes of 2017) altered transitional housing program guidelines for former and current foster youth by permitting adults to supervise youth without living onsite with them and to allow nonminor dependents to live independently in an apartment or home, as specified. The bill expanded educational qualifications for managers and caseworkers of transitional housing programs and authorized a home to be both certified under a foster family agency and licensed as a transitional placement facility.

AB 1712 (Beall, Chapter 846, Statutes of 2012) enacted technical, clarifying, and federal conformity changes to the California Fostering Connections to Success Act of 2010 (AB 12).

AB 12 (Beall, Chapter 559, Statutes of 2010) extended transitional foster care services to eligible youth between 18 and 21 years of age and required California to seek federal financial participation in kinship guardianship assistance payments.

Comments

This bill seeks to ensure decisions about room sharing are led by foster youth and recognizes that NMDs have the same legal decision making authority as an adult. This bill additionally seeks to maximize flexibility in THP admission and county

contracts to best meet the needs of minor dependents and NMDs served by the program. The goal of THP programs is to provide current and former foster youth additional supports they need to successfully transition to independence while reducing the risks of homelessness, unemployment, and instability after foster care. Ensuring foster youth lead decisions and do not face unreasonable barriers to admission or placement may increase satisfaction and retention in THP programs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- “Unknown potential General Fund costs for the CDSS for state administration.
- “Unknown costs to counties for administration. 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.”

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/29/25)

California Alliance of Child and Family Services (Sponsor)

Association of Community Human Service Agencies

Aviva

Better Angels

California Alliance of Caregivers

Casa De Amparo

Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families

Children’s Law Center of California

Children’s Institute

Crittenton

First Place for Youth

Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, INC.

Fred Finch

Good River Partners

John Burton Advocates for Youth

Kamali’i

Haynes Family of Programs

Mary's Path

Olive Crest

Stanford Sierra Youth and Families

Sycamores

Trinity Youth Services

Walden Family Services
Youth Law Center

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/29/25)

None

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-1, 6/2/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio

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9/2/25 18:19:15

**** END ****