
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1846 (Stefani) - Dependency: placement of child with relative

Version: March 18, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: JUD. 12 - 0, HUMAN S. 5 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 1846 would clarify that the relative placement preference for a child who is a dependent of the juvenile court extends throughout the dependency proceeding, unless and until parental rights are terminated, as specified.

******* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *******

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026**

Fiscal Impact: Up to \$125,000 in FY 20267 and up to \$250,000 annually thereafter for social workers to complete the additional documentation of assessing any relative who requests placement. (General Fund)

Estimated \$90,000 additional funding is provided by Title IV E of the Social Security Act, with the amount of Federal Financial Participation based on the 50 percent administration rate for those cases meeting federal eligibility criteria. (federal funds)

Although these county workload costs are mandated by the state, they are not reimbursable but instead must be funded by the state pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012). Proposition 30 requires legislation enacted after September 30, 2012, that has an overall effect of increasing the costs already borne by a local agency for programs or levels of service mandated by realignment to apply to local agencies only to the extent the state provides annual funding for the cost increase. (General Fund)

Author Amendments: Make technical and clarifying changes.

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