

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 1914 (Schiavo and Lee)
As Amended April 27, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires cities and counties to adopt or integrate a childcare plan into the next adoption or revision of the general plan by January 1, 2033, to address the childcare needs of the jurisdiction, and authorizes cities and counties to designate an existing childcare plan as compliant.

Major Provisions

- 1) Requires, on or after January 1, 2028, but no later than January 1, 2033, each city, county, or city and county to prepare and adopt a childcare plan or integrate a childcare plan into the next adoption of the city, county, or city and county's general plan to address the childcare needs of the jurisdiction.
- 2) Authorizes the city, county, or city and county, if a city, county, or city and county has already adopted a similar childcare plan in its general plan or apart from the general plan, to designate that childcare plan to comply with these provisions.
- 3) Defines the following terms:
 - a) "Childcare" means license-exempt childcare, childcare and development services, and childcare and development programs, for children up to 13 years of age, including children with exceptional needs and children from all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
 - b) "Childcare plan" means a plan developed by a city, county, or city and county to address the childcare needs of the jurisdiction.
 - c) "Childcare and development programs" has the same meaning as defined in Section 10213.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
 - d) "Childcare and development services" has the same meaning as defined in Section 10213.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
 - e) "License-exempt childcare" has the same meaning as described in Section 1596.792 of the Health and Safety Code, as it relates to childcare
- 4) Makes the finding and declaration that these provisions address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair as that term is used in Section 5 of Article XI of the California Constitution. Therefore, these provisions apply to all cities, including charter cities.
- 5) Provides that no reimbursement is required by these provisions pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by these provisions, within the meaning of Government Code Section 17556.
- 6) Makes the following findings and declarations:

- a) Childcare access and infrastructure are a critical need, and every family should have access to quality, convenient, safe, and affordable childcare;
- b) To address the state's childcare crisis, all levels of government must be involved and prioritize planning for their communities' childcare needs;
- c) Integrating the childcare needs of those who live and work in the jurisdiction into a city's or county's planning processes is a promising strategy of childcare in earlier stages of local planning processes, while preserving local discretion; and,
- d) Including childcare in emergency preparedness and disaster planning is also critical to ensure the unique needs of this vulnerable population are met before, during, and after disasters, supporting community resilience, economic recovery, and child safety.

COMMENTS

General Plans. State law requires each jurisdiction to adopt a general plan governing the use of land within its boundaries. The general plan must include specified elements, including a land use element that designates allowable uses such as residential, commercial or open spaces, and a housing element that plans for the location and density of housing. All major land use decisions, such as zoning ordinances and development approvals, must be consistent with the general plan, which also establishes policies, standards, and mitigation measures related to issues such as flood and fire hazards, climate change, and environmental justice.

Local governments enact zoning ordinances that establish the types of land uses that are allowed or authorized in an area. Zoning ordinances also contain provisions to physically shape development and impose other requirements, such as setting maximum heights and densities for housing units, minimum numbers of required parking spaces, setbacks, and lot coverage ratios. These ordinances can also include conditions on development to address aesthetics, community impacts, or other particular site-specific considerations.

Local Planning Councils. Under current law [Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 10485-10487], Local Childcare Development Planning Councils (LPCs) provide a forum for the identification of local priorities for childcare and the development of policies to meet the needs identified within those priorities. LPCs were legislatively created in 1991, following the federal establishment of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program to ensure local voices influence how CCDBG funds are allocated.

Each county in California has an LPC established to identify local childcare priorities and develop policies to address those needs. State law requires the county board of supervisors and county superintendent of schools to appoint members to these councils, ensuring balanced representation with equal parts of consumers, childcare providers, public agency representatives, community representatives, and discretionary appointees. LPCs are responsible for conducting a countywide childcare needs assessment at least once every five years, developing comprehensive plans to mobilize public and private resources and to address identified needs, and ensuring community input in setting local priorities. Many LPCs have developed these strategic plans informed by needs assessment and community feedback gathered through forums.

According to the Author

"As rising living costs and threats to cut funding from the federal government continue to create additional barriers to affordable child care, it is increasingly important to examine child care accessibility as communities plan for future growth and infrastructure needs. Instead of relying solely on ad hoc solutions to address child care accessibility, I believe AB 1914 is a promising strategy to promote greater consistency and consideration of child care in earlier stages of local planning, while preserving local discretion. Requiring local general plans to include child care is crucial because it supports economic development by enabling workforce participation, attracts families and talent, promotes healthier, family-friendly communities, and aligns land use with community needs, ensuring equitable access and reducing traffic by integrating child care facilities near homes, jobs, and transportation. As we saw from the fires in Los Angeles, it is also critical to include child care in disaster planning and climate adaptation and resilience strategies to ensure children are cared for before, during, and after disasters and to ensure they have access to safe, healthy learning environments. Child care is a critical resource for California families and requires comprehensive planning to ensure widespread access to high-quality, affordable options."

Arguments in Support

The Low Income Investment Fund, Build Up California, and the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls writes in support, "Access to reliable and affordable child care is closely tied to where families live, how they travel to work, and the infrastructure and services available in their communities. Yet despite its importance to families and the workforce, child care is not consistently incorporated into local planning processes. As a result, communities may miss opportunities to plan for child care facilities near housing, employment centers, and transit corridors, or may unintentionally create barriers that limit the development of new child care providers..."

"Planning for child care access also plays an important role in community resilience. As California communities increasingly face wildfires, extreme heat, floods, and other disasters, it is critical that emergency planning and climate adaptation strategies consider the needs of children and child care providers. Including child care considerations within general plan safety and environmental justice elements will help ensure that facilities are located in safe environments and that communities are better prepared to support children and families before, during, and after emergencies."

Arguments in Opposition

The League of California Cities writes in opposition, "Existing law already treats small and large licensed family childcare homes as residential uses permitted by right for zoning purposes. Recent legislation has also limited fees and provided targeted CEQA exemptions. These reforms focus on implementation – making it easier to open and expand childcare facilities in communities. In contrast, AB 1914 adds another layer of planning without addressing major barriers to expanding childcare access, such as funding, and workforce shortages."

"Every county in California has a Local Childcare Planning Council (LPC) that identifies local childcare priorities and develops policies to address those needs, including comprehensive plans updated every five years. Rather than requiring new plans that duplicate the work LPCs are already doing, the Legislature should focus on leveraging that work to turn existing plans into real progress in addressing California's childcare crisis."

FISCAL COMMENTS

No state costs. Local costs resulting from this bill are not reimbursable by the state because local agencies have general authority to charge and adjust planning and permitting fees to cover their administrative expenses associated with new planning mandates.

VOTES**ASM LOCAL GOVERNMENT: 8-1-1**

YES: Carrillo, Pacheco, Ramos, Ransom, Blanca Rubio, Stefani, Ward, Wilson

NO: Johnson

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ta

ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 5-1-1

YES: Lee, Calderon, Elhawary, Blanca Rubio, Ahrens

NO: Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Castillo

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 10-2-3

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Dixon, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Arambula, Ta

UPDATED

VERSION: April 27, 2026

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FN: 0002519