
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1996 (Bonta) - California Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council

Version: June 10, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 4 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 1996 would establish the California Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council within the California Health and Human Services Agency.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, likely hundreds of thousands, to support the council.

Background: In 2017, state law created the Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force (Task Force) to identify comprehensive strategies aimed at addressing deep childhood poverty and reducing child poverty in California. As part of this effort, the Task Force examined strategies to better coordinate services, noting that families in poverty often have an array of service needs, but linking families with support services can be challenging due to disparate eligibility rules across programs and families' lack of time to find and apply for services. The Task Force drew from the research support of the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, as well as state departments and stakeholders. The Task Force also convened meetings to create a list of recommendations to reduce child poverty by 50 percent. The final Task Force report, the End Child Poverty Plan, was published in 2018. Recommendations to address both immediate and long-term needs include increased tax credits, larger CalWORKs grants, expanded Medi-Cal eligibility and more child care and early education access.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Establish the California Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council within the California Health and Human Services Agency and require CDSS to provide staff for and administer the council.
- Include requirements for the appointment and membership of the council.
- Require the council to do all of the following:
 - Determine where there is overlap of existing child poverty reduction or child welfare commissions and reports, and develop and publish a comprehensive plan for reducing redundancy. The plan must include annual benchmarks to reduce statewide child poverty by 50 percent within 10 years.
 - Determine metrics to measure whether a policy proposal, budget provisions, or pending legislation increases or decreases child poverty.

- Determine metrics to measure whether a policy proposal, budget provisions, or pending legislation increases or decreases administrative burdens for families with children.
- Identify state programs or administrative processes that can be modified to reduce barriers to access and improve equity for children and families.
- Meet at least quarterly.
- Submit specified reports to the Legislature.

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