

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2684 (Nguyen) – As Amended April 15, 2026

Policy Committee:	Human Services	Vote:	7 - 0
	Judiciary		12 - 0

Urgency: No            State Mandated Local Program: Yes            Reimbursable: Yes

**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows a social worker or probation officer to conduct virtual monthly visits with a nonminor dependent (NMD) who is placed out of state.

Among its provisions, this bill:

- 1) Requires social workers or probation officers to allow NMDs who are placed out of state the option to have their monthly visit through a virtual visit. Defines “virtual visit” to mean a real-time audiovisual interaction between the social worker or probation officer and the NMD.
- 2) Authorizes a virtual visit if the NMD provides informed consent to meet with the social worker or probation officer through a virtual visit. Requires the virtual visit and consent to be documented by the caseworker in the case plan.
- 3) Requires the virtual visit to include a private discussion between the NMD and the social worker or probation officer that is not conducted in the presence or immediate vicinity of a foster parent or caregiver, unless the NMD requests otherwise. Prohibits the content of the discussion from being disclosed to a foster parent or caregiver, with exceptions.
- 4) Authorizes the social worker or probation officer to shift a virtual visit to an in-person visit if either has any concerns regarding the safety or well-being of the NMD.
- 5) Requires the social worker or probation officer to, at a minimum, conduct an in-person visit with the NMD on a quarterly basis.
- 6) Excludes an NMD placed in an out-of-state residential facility from the bill’s provisions.
- 7) Requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to convene a working group no later than July 1, 2027, to develop guidelines for county placing agencies and attorneys representing NMDs related to engaging and supporting NMDs who are placed out of state. Requires the guidelines to be developed with input from stakeholders, including youth with lived experience, among others.
- 8) Requires CDSS to convene stakeholders, including representatives of the training entities for county placement agencies, no later than July 1, 2027, and contingent upon an appropriation

for this purpose, to develop best practices in casework practices to support and promote the healthy adult development of NMDs.

#### **FISCAL EFFECT:**

CDSS estimates General Fund costs of \$185,000 in fiscal year 2027-28, and \$181,000 annually ongoing for one staff position to coordinate the two workgroups, develop guidance, and support training rollout.

CDSS indicates minimal costs to social workers.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

#### **COMMENTS:**

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

California's Extended Foster Care (EFC) is a beneficial program that supports our foster youth as they transition into adulthood. It ensures they meet their long-term goals and are adequately supported. [This bill] modernizes California's EFC program by aligning it with federal law to allow non-minor dependents the option of conducting virtual monthly meetings with their social worker while maintaining quarterly in-person meetings.

2) **Background.** Existing law requires foster youth to receive monthly visits from social workers to ensure the foster youth's safety and well-being. Existing law also requires the social worker to have a private discussion with the foster child during each regular visit.

In 2010, the Legislature established the EFC program via AB 12 (Beall), Chapter, 559, Statutes of 2010. Through EFC, foster youth who would otherwise age out of eligibility for services may continue to access certain services until age 21 to allow for them to more smoothly transition into adult life. To participate, a foster youth must generally have been in foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and meet at least one of five potential criteria, such as enrollment in school, employment, or diagnosis of certain medical conditions that prevent them from returning to school or working.

Once enrolled in EFC, some NMDs move out of state, including to attend college or for work placements, and live in a Supervised Independent Living Placement such as an apartment, shared home, or dorm. An NMD may also live with relatives or nonrelative extended family members who live out of state.

Under existing law, these youth are still required to conduct monthly visits with their social worker. In 2024, Congress passed H.R.9076, the Supporting America's Children and Families Act. As part of that Act, federal law now authorizes caseworkers to conduct virtual monthly visits for NMDs with their consent.

This bill aligns state law with federal law to allow a youth in extended foster care who is living out of state to request to complete their monthly visits virtually. The bill still requires

the social worker to complete an in-person visit at least quarterly and maintains the same confidentiality requirements in existing law for in-person visits. The bill does not authorize virtual visits for foster youth who are placed in an out-of-state residential facility that is licensed to provide integrated programs of specialized 24-hour trauma-informed care.

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