

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 563 (Jackson)

As Amended June 23, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC) to include successes, challenges, gaps, and recommendations in its existing annual report and submit it to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Clarify that the ECPC must include in its existing annual report on the work of the council the successes, challenges, and gaps in the state's early childhood education systems, along with recommendations to advance the state's vision for children, families, and communities, rather than preparing a separate report.
- 2) Clarify that the report described in 1) above, must be submitted to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees, rather than specifying particular legislative committees.

COMMENTS

Background: The Early Childhood Policy Council. According to the California Health and Human Services Agency, the ECPC's role is to "elevate the needs of young children and their families as well as advise the Governor, Legislature and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning, care, and child development. It will provide recommendations on all aspects of the state's early childhood system, including support for the demographic, geographic and economic diversity of the state's children and families and ways the Master Plan and the Assembly BRC on Early Childhood Education's final report can be updated and improved. It will hold at least four public meetings per year and prepare a formal annual report."

This bill requires the ECPC to include in its existing annual report the successes, challenges, and gaps in the state's early childhood education systems and recommendations to facilitate advancing the state's vision.

Master Plan for Early Learning and Care. In December 2020, California launched the Master Plan, which provided a road map for building a stronger, more equitable early learning and childcare system. The Master Plan provided direction for building a comprehensive system over time – one that partners with families, takes a whole-child approach to ensure the best outcomes, and supports the advancement of early learning and care professionals to ensure that families across California have equitable access to quality care and learning support.

According to a December 2024 Progress Report by CDSS, since the launch of the Master Plan, funding for childcare and development programs has increased drastically – from a total of \$3.53 billion in fiscal year 2020-21 to \$6.05 billion in fiscal year 2024-25. California has also made significant achievements in the identified goal areas:

- 1) *Programs.* Significantly expanded childcare access with over 129,000 new subsidies and doubled investments in State Preschool, while tripling investments in TK, aiming for universal TK access for four year-olds by 2025. Paid family leave benefits were improved for

low- and middle-income workers, while new policies enhanced support for dual language learners, children with disabilities, and behavioral health resources;

- 2) *Workforce.* To support educators, the state invested \$163 million in inclusive classrooms, launched 12 new online training courses, and allocated \$650 million to teacher residency programs. A \$40 million training fund was established for childcare providers through a partnership with the California Childcare Providers Union (CCPU);
- 3) *Funding.* Efforts to unify funding include developing a cost-based single rate structure, distributing \$144.5 million in supplemental payments, providing \$500 incentives, and issuing \$2,157 per-child stipends. Family fees were also reduced, capped at 1% of income for low-income families; and,
- 4) *Administration.* To streamline governance, California invested over \$1 billion through a partnership with CCPU, including an \$80 million retirement trust fund, transferred \$4 billion in programs to CDSS for improved equity and quality, and initiated the development of a comprehensive early childhood data system. Additionally, \$350.5 million was allocated for childcare infrastructure grants, and access to kindergarten facilities was expanded through legislative efforts.

Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education. The BRC on Early Childhood Education was established with the intent to "plan an early learning system that works for/meets the needs of children, families, and providers." The BRC was dedicated to the development of strategic solutions to improve outcomes for young learners in California.

The BRC released its final report in April 2019, including several recommendations to achieve its vision of an early care and education system linked to comprehensive support that works for children, families, and providers and improves outcomes for young learners. In the report, the BRC identified goal areas to facilitate the long-term vision for the future, including governance and administration; family engagement; access for children and families; workforce; quality improvement; systems and infrastructure; facilities and supply; coordination and alignment; and, financing. Since the release of the 2019 final report, there have been no updates by the BRC on the progress of the outlined recommendations.

This bill requires the ECPC to develop policy proposals and budget requests related to facility and workforce needs as well as family access.

According to the Author

"Childcare is the backbone of a thriving economy and a critical support for working families, yet too many Californians struggle to find affordable, high-quality options. [This bill] tackles this challenge head-on by modernizing the framework for local childcare planning. It expands the definition of childcare to explicitly include early childhood education, ensuring a holistic approach that prepares our youngest learners for success. The bill restructures council membership to better represent key stakeholders-parents, providers, educators, and local leaders-while fostering collaboration through new parent and provider advisory committees.

"[This bill] builds on California's commitment to equity and opportunity. It aligns local efforts with state goals, strengthens ties between childcare and education systems, and empowers communities to identify and solve their unique challenges."

Arguments in Support

According to the Los Angeles Unified School District, "This bill would require the Council to submit a report to the California State Legislature on an annual basis that includes the successes, challenges, and gaps in the state's childhood education systems, as well as associated recommendations."

Arguments in Opposition

No opposition on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 18, 2025, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) estimates General Fund costs of \$235,000 in 2025-26 and \$231,000 ongoing thereafter for state administration.

VOTES:**ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 6-0-0**

YES: Lee, Castillo, Calderon, Elhawary, Jackson, Celeste Rodriguez

ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0

YES: Muratsuchi, Hoover, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Patel

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0-0

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, 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

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNERney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Reyes

UPDATED

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