
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1345 (Wahab) - Foster children: rights of foster youth

Version: April 9, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 4, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 4 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 1345 would clarify and add to the list of rights included in the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Fiscal Impact: The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) estimates one-time General Fund contract costs, likely hundreds of thousands, for the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson to redesign and reprint materials.

Background: The Foster Youth Bill of Rights for all minors and nonminors in foster care includes enumerated rights, such as the right to live in a safe, healthy, and comfortable home where they are treated with respect; to be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse; and to be placed in the least restrictive setting possible.

The Foster Youth Bill of Rights includes, but is not limited to, the following rights:

- To receive adequate and healthy food, adequate clothing, grooming and hygiene products, and an age-appropriate allowance. Clothing and grooming and hygiene products must respect the child's culture, ethnicity, and gender identity and expression.
- To have storage space for private use.
- To be free from unreasonable searches of personal belongings.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Clarify, under the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, that in regards to having storage space for private use, the foster youth has the right to maintain reasonable access to and use of personal belongings, clothing, and personal items.
- Add to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, the right to have personal belongings transported during placement changes and other moves in a manner that preserves the youth's property and dignity; and provide that this includes the use of suitcases, duffel bags, backpacks, and moving boxes rather than trash bags or other inappropriate receptacles.

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