
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1421 (McGuire) - California Child and Family Service Review System: nonminor dependents

Version: March 26, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: May 4, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 4 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 1421 would require the California Child and Family Service Review System to include data measures related to utilization of programs for nonminor dependents, as specified.

Fiscal Impact:

- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) estimates ongoing General Fund costs of \$181,000 for state administration related to data collection activities. CDSS also indicates unknown potential automation costs.
- Unknown potential costs to counties for administration related to additional data measure requirements.

Background: Current law establishes the California Child and Family Service Review System which requires CDSS to establish a system to review all county child welfare systems, and to ensure compliance with federal regulations for the receipt of federal funds. The system replaced the former oversight mechanism and created a continuous quality improvement model that requires review of all county child welfare systems, including child protective services, foster care, adoption, family preservation, family support, and independent living. Counties are responsible for and accountable to CDSS for child welfare program performance measures. Counties must submit updates to CDSS, no less than annually, on their progress in achieving improvements on applicable measures.

State law establishes the Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program. The EFC Program allows eligible youth in the child welfare and probation systems (“nonminor dependents”) to remain in foster care until age 21. Youth may leave extended foster care and later choose to re-enter the program up to age 21.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require the California Child and Family Service Review System to include data measures related to utilization of programs for nonminor dependents that are designed to reduce poverty and increase postsecondary education, including, but not limited to, the foster youth tax credit, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- Require CDSS, at least once every five years, to conduct a comprehensive review of county performance on these measures.
- Allow CDSS to consider feedback from relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, researchers, county representatives, advocates, and individuals with lived experience, in determining which additional relevant data to include.

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