

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 902 (Grayson) – As Amended June 3, 2026

Policy Committee:	Human Services	Vote:	7 - 0
	Education		8 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill clarifies that an electronic signature in compliance with the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA) may satisfy signatures required by the Early Education Act and the Child Care and Development Services Act.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Authorizes a preschool provider holding California State Preschool Program (CSPP) contracts with the California Department of Education (CDE), pursuant to the Early Education Act, to use an electronic rather than a digital signature in maintaining electronic records.
- 2) Requires the use of an electronic signature to have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature if the signature meets the requirements of the UETA.
- 3) Authorizes a childcare provider under the purview of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to satisfy the requirement for a signature by the Child Care and Development Services Act with the use of an electronic signature, provided the signature meets the requirements of the UETA.
- 4) Authorizes documents required by the Child Care and Development Services Act containing an electronic signature to be created and stored in an electronic format in compliance with the UETA.
- 5) Authorizes CDSS to adopt regulations to implement the above provisions, including standards for authentication, consent, and record retention.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Negligible state costs.

COMMENTS:

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

Families accessing subsidized childcare vouchers must submit multiple forms throughout the year, including eligibility applications,

updates to work or school schedules, changes to providers, and corrections to attendance records. Paper-based processes require printing, mailing, or hand-delivering documents, which can be burdensome for parents juggling multiple jobs, caring for young children, or facing transportation or housing challenges. Missing or delayed signatures can slow access to care or stall reimbursement to providers for families using vouchers. [The bill] updates subsidized childcare paperwork practices by specifying that a required signature may be satisfied by an electronic signature in compliance with UETA.

- 2) **Background.** Existing law, UETA, provides that a record or signature may not be denied legal effect or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form. UETA further provides that an electronic signature satisfies any legal requirement for a signature if the parties to a transaction have agreed to conduct the transaction electronically.

California regulations require contractors operating childcare centers or family childcare homes to use daily sign-in/sign-out sheets as a primary source document for audit and reimbursement purposes. According to the CDE, effective January 1, 2017, childcare contractors may use a digital signature, including for sign-in/sign-out at childcare programs, provided the signature meets the technology requirements. The current digital signature authority for attendance records is based on a combination of statutory authority and regulations that predate modern electronic signature platforms.

This bill replaces that structure by making UETA compliance the standard and clarifies that an electronic signature in compliance with UETA, rather than a digital signature, meets the requirements for signatures required under the CSPP, and that an electronic signature in compliance with UETA satisfies a signature requirement in childcare programs under the purview of CDSS.

A broad coalition of child advocates and childcare providers assert “Streamlining these processes will help ensure families remain connected to care, support timely payments for providers, and improve the state’s ability to efficiently utilize existing childcare funding.” There is no opposition to the bill.

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