
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair
2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No: SB 1154
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Version: February 18, 2016
Urgency: No
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez
Hearing Date: March 30, 2016
Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Child care and development services: resource and referral programs

NOTE: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and Human Services. A “do pass” motion should include referral to the Committee on Human Services.

SUMMARY

This bill updates, clarifies and codifies the duties and responsibilities of child care resource and referral programs.

BACKGROUND

Existing law authorizes funds appropriated for purposes, of the act to be used for child care resource and referral programs, which may be operated by public or private nonprofit entities and are required to provide certain information and services to parents and child care providers relating to child care services in a defined geographic area. (Education Code § 8211, et seq.)

ANALYSIS

This bill updates, clarifies, and codifies the duties and responsibilities of child care R&Rs. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires that the provisions of law related to child care resource and referral programs be known and cited as, the “Patricia Siegel Child Care Resources and Referral Memorial Act.”
- 2) States that child care R&Rs are unique in that services are provided to all parents regardless of income and to all types of child care providers.
- 3) Makes a number of changes regarding the administration of child care referral services. Specifically it,
 - a) Requires that the referral process be described in writing and available to all parents and providers on request, regardless of income level or eligibility requirements.

- b) Includes a cross-reference to the Health & Safety Code regarding the authority to limit the distribution of the list of small family day care homes.
 - c) Adds use of e-mail to the methods used to provide information to parents.
 - d) Clarifies that basic child care referral shall be at no cost to anyone requesting services.
 - e) Specifies that a basic referral includes the name and phone number of the providers referred and other specified information related to the maximization of parental choice.
 - f) Authorizes a fee for an enhanced referral that includes more information than a basic referral.
 - g) Specifies additional services an R&R program may provide to child care providers.
 - h) Adds a written complaint procedure process to conform to existing R&R regulations.
 - i) Expands documentation of requests for service to include:
 - i) Inquiries about child care supply information including the number of licensed child care programs.
 - ii) Requests for other child care information not otherwise specified.
- 4) Expands specified options for technical assistance to include:
- a) Training and workshops on health and safety, child development, special needs and other topics related to professional development.
 - b) Dissemination of information to specified entities regarding community resources, child care statistics, and the opening a child care business.
 - c) Collaboration with community partners and local county welfare services.
 - d) Assistance in planning and improving child care in local communities.
 - e) Assistance in advising on potential expansion of child care services.
- 5) Requires resource and referral programs (R&Rs) to provide professional development services to support the development of new child care services and improve program quality.
- 6) Clarifies the role of R&Rs in providing maximum parent choice and maximum access to services in order to conform to existing R&R regulations and requires R&Rs to provide parents with information related to:

- a) Selection child care that meets the needs of the parent and child.
 - b) Licensing requirements.
 - c) Eligibility for subsidized care.
 - d) Child care alternatives.
- 7) Outlines the referral process for an agency operating both a direct service program and referral program in cases where fewer than four providers meet the parent's needs.
 - 8) Outlines the R&Rs role in the implementation of Trustline for license-exempt providers and provides a cross-reference to the Health & Safety Code.
 - 9) Clarifies that there are state and local distinctions to the California Child Care Initiative Project.
 - 10) Clarifies the requirement to remove a child care provider whose license has been revoked or suspended from the list of providers within two business days upon notification from the State Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division.
 - 11) Repeals a code section regarding funding that was provided for R&Rs to serve families under stress who needed short term assistance to avoid the Child Protective Service system as this service is no longer under the auspice of R&R services.
 - 12) Makes a technical cross reference correction regarding funding for R&Rs.
 - 13) Deletes obsolete language that identified a fixed amount of funding for R&Rs, and instead makes a general funding allocation statement with regard to R&Rs.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, current law related to child care resource and referral programs is outdated and does not adequately represent the responsibilities of R&Rs or services offered. The author asserts that the updated language will standardize services statewide while ensuring that families from each region receive the same basic referral and child care services.
- 2) ***Patricia Siegel.*** This bill requires the provisions of law related to child care resource and referral programs (R&Rs) to be known and cited as, the "Patricia Siegel Child Care Resources and Referral Memorial Act." In 1980, Patricia Siegel founded and became executive director of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. The Network aims to promote accessible, affordable, quality child care. Its membership consists of R&Rs from across the state.

- 3) **R&R Programs.** Every county in California is served by at least one R&R program. The California Department of Education administers the R&Rs' state contracts. The roles, responsibilities, and requirements that R&Rs are required to meet, are contained in the Education Code, Health & Safety Code, regulations and in the Funding Terms and Conditions developed by the Department of Education.
- 4) **Why codify?** This bill codifies existing duties and responsibilities of R&Rs. Consolidating the many references to R&Rs in the Health & Safety Code, regulations and the Funding Terms and Conditions under a single Act of the Education Code may provide greater awareness of, and compliance with, roles, responsibilities, and requirements. However, codification could create cost pressure to provide additional funding for the services specified in this bill.
- 5) **Prior legislation.** AB 2364 (Brownley) similar to this bill, proposed to update and make clean up changes to the child care and resource and referral (R&R) statutes. AB 2364 passed this Committee and was subsequently held in Senate Appropriations.

SUPPORT

California Alternative Payment Program Association
California Federation of Teachers
Child Care Alliance Los Angeles
Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County
Northern Director's Group
Siskiyou Child Care Council

OPPOSITION

None received.

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