

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 15, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 12, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 27, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 823

Introduced by Assembly Member Dickinson
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Beall)
(Principal coauthors: Senators Evans and Liu)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Butler and Portantino)

February 17, 2011

An act to add and repeal Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 96050) of Title 15 of the Government Code, relating to children's services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 823, as amended, Dickinson. Children's Cabinet of California.

Existing law, the California Early Intervention Services Act, requires the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide a statewide system of coordinated, comprehensive, family-centered, multidisciplinary, interagency programs responsible for providing appropriate early intervention services and support to all eligible infants and toddlers and their families.

This bill would, to the extent that sufficient federal or private funds are deposited with the state and appropriated by the Legislature, establish the Children’s Cabinet of California to serve, until January 1, 2019, as an advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration among agencies that provide services to the children and youth of the state. This bill would provide that the cabinet shall be comprised of, among others, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, the Chief Justice of California, or his or designee, and the heads of various specified state agencies. The bill would require the cabinet to provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature every odd-numbered year.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The foundation of human development is formed during a
- 4 child’s earlier years, and early childhood development requires a
- 5 comprehensive, coordinated approach to a child’s care and learning.
- 6 (b) The education and development of children occur not only
- 7 in schools but also in families, neighborhoods, communities, and
- 8 our broader society.
- 9 (c) The needs of children are increasingly complex and the
- 10 networks of services available to them are managed by multiple
- 11 agencies and departments, often with differing goals and objectives.
- 12 (d) Government programs must collaboratively develop and
- 13 implement effective, efficient, and coordinated service delivery
- 14 to ensure that all of California’s children have an equal opportunity
- 15 to reach their full potential.
- 16 (e) The State of California must comprehensively address the
- 17 needs of each of its children and youth and provide the
- 18 understanding, encouragement, support, services, and knowledge
- 19 necessary for each of them to master the skills and competencies
- 20 that work, life, and active citizenship require.
- 21 (f) It is critical to California’s children that issues affecting their
- 22 well-being be considered at the highest level of state government.
- 23 SEC. 2. Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 96050) is added
- 24 to Title 15 of the Government Code, to read:

1 CHAPTER 2. CHILDREN’S CABINET OF CALIFORNIA

2
3 96050. (a) The Children’s Cabinet of California is hereby
4 established within state government, which shall serve as an
5 advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration among
6 agencies that provide services to the children and youth of the
7 state.

8 (b) The cabinet shall advise and make recommendations to the
9 Governor and the Legislature on ways to improve the delivery of
10 services to children and youth and their families.

11 (c) The cabinet shall be comprised of the following members:

12 (1) The Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Secretary
13 of California Health and Human Services, who shall serve as
14 cochairs.

15 (2) The Chief Justice of California, or his or her designee.

16 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Corrections and
17 Rehabilitation, or his or her designee.

18 (4) The Director of Social Services.

19 (5) The Director of Health Care Services.

20 (6) The State Public Health Officer.

21 (7) The Director of Mental Health.

22 (8) The Director of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

23 (9) The Director of Developmental Services.

24 (10) The Director of Child Support Services.

25 (11) Two Members of the Assembly, as appointed by the
26 Speaker of the Assembly.

27 (12) Two members of the Senate, as appointed by the Senate
28 Committee on Rules.

29 (13) Additional members that may be appointed at the will of
30 the Governor.

31 (d) Staffing of the cabinet shall be a shared responsibility among
32 the cochairs of the ~~cabinet~~ *cabinet* to the extent federal or private
33 funds are made available for this purpose.

34 (e) (1) Upon call of the cochairs, the cabinet shall ~~hold public~~
35 ~~meetings at least quarterly.~~ *meet, at a minimum, quarterly.*

36 (2) The cabinet may establish committees to further its work.
37 Committees shall consist of at least one cabinet member and others
38 as the cabinet requires.

39 (3) Members of the committees shall receive no compensation
40 from the state for their services, except that they may be reimbursed

1 for actual travel and related expenses in accordance with state
2 policy.

3 (4) The cabinet shall submit a report to the Governor and the
4 Legislature on or before October 31, of each odd-numbered year,
5 notwithstanding Section 10231.5. The report shall include, but
6 shall not be limited to, recommendations on ways to improve
7 coordination of services to children, youth, and their families,
8 including, but not limited to, all of the following:

9 (A) Developing and implementing a shared vision and a strategic
10 plan on how best to establish cross-agency coordination.

11 (B) Establishing baseline goals and benchmarks for assessing
12 the extent to which state agencies successfully strengthen their
13 cooperation and collaboration in providing services to children,
14 youth, and their families.

15 (C) Identifying and implementing evidence-based practices for
16 the effective and efficient delivery of services.

17 (f) The Bureau of State Audits may conduct a performance audit
18 of the cabinet established pursuant to this chapter and report its
19 finding to the board and the Legislature on or before January 1,
20 2018.

21 96051. (a) The Children’s Cabinet of California shall be
22 established pursuant to this chapter only after a determination has
23 been made by the Department of Finance that federal or private
24 funds in an amount sufficient to fully support the activities of the
25 cabinet, including staffing of the cabinet and development and
26 distribution of the biennial report, have been deposited with the
27 state.

28 (b) Upon a determination by the Department of Finance that
29 there are sufficient federal or private funds to fully support the
30 activities of the cabinet as described in subdivision (a), the funds
31 shall be made available to the cabinet for the purposes described
32 in this chapter upon appropriation by the Legislature.

33 (c) Upon making a determination that sufficient funds have been
34 deposited pursuant to this section, the Department of Finance shall
35 file a written notice to that effect with the Chief Clerk of the
36 Assembly and the Secretary of the Senate.

37 96052. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January
38 1, 2019, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted

1 statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2019, deletes or extends
2 that date.

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