

Introduced by Senator PanDecember 5, 2016

An act relating to children and youth.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 18, as introduced, Pan. Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in California.

Existing law provides for the care and welfare of children and youth in various contexts, including, but not limited to, child welfare services, foster care, health care, nutrition, homeless assistance, and education.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 80 (Res. Ch. 101, Stats. 2009) declares the Legislature's support of a Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of California that resolves to invest in all children and youth in order to achieve specified goals to create an optimal environment for their healthy development.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to expand and codify the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth of California to establish a comprehensive framework that governs the rights of all children and youth in California, outlines the research-based essential needs of California's children, and establishes standards relating to the health, safety, well-being, early childhood and educational opportunities, and familial supports necessary for all children to succeed. The bill would declare the intent of the Legislature, by January 1, 2022, to enact legislation for the purpose of ensuring that the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth of California, in its totality, is applied evenly, equitably, and appropriately to all children and youth across the state.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that all
2 children and youth, regardless of gender, class, race, ethnicity,
3 national origin, culture, religion, immigration status, sexual
4 orientation, or ability, have inherent rights that entitle them to
5 protection, special care, and assistance, including, but not limited
6 to, the following:

7 (1) The right to parents, guardians, or caregivers who act in
8 their best interest.

9 (2) The right to form healthy attachments with adults responsible
10 for their care and well-being.

11 (3) The right to live in a safe and healthy environment.

12 (4) The right to social and emotional well-being.

13 (5) The right to opportunities to attain optimal cognitive,
14 physical, and social development.

15 (6) The right to appropriate, quality education and life skills
16 leading to self-sufficiency in adulthood.

17 (7) The right to appropriate, quality health care.

18 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to
19 expand and codify the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth of
20 California created by Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 80
21 (Res. Ch. 101, Stats. 2009), to establish a comprehensive
22 framework that governs the rights of all children and youth in
23 California, outlines the research-based essential needs of
24 California's children, and establishes standards relating to the
25 health, safety, well-being, early childhood and educational
26 opportunities, and familial supports necessary for all children to
27 succeed.

28 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature, by January 1, 2022,
29 to enact appropriate legislation to accomplish all of the following:

30 (a) Develop and put forth research-based policy solutions that
31 will ensure the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth of California,
32 in its totality, is applied evenly, equitably, and appropriately to all
33 children and youth across the state.

34 (b) Determine the amount of revenue and resources necessary
35 to ensure that the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth of
36 California, in its totality, is applied evenly, equitably, and
37 appropriately to all children and youth across the state.

- 1 (c) Identify and obtain the revenue and resources necessary to
- 2 ensure that the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth of California,
- 3 in its totality, is applied evenly, equitably, and appropriately to all
- 4 children and youth across the state.

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