

AB 1067 (Brownley) Foster Youth School Stability As Introduced February 27, 2009

Summary:

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to take necessary actions to maximize eligibility for available federal funding for travel costs for children in foster care and requires the social study of a child in foster care to address whether a proposed residential placement takes into account proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.

Existing Law: Allows foster youth to remain in their school of origin for the duration of the school year when their residential placement changes and remaining in the same school is in the child's best interest.

Rationale:

Placement in foster care or changes in placement while in foster care often result in school changes. Changes in school are disruptive to the educational achievement of foster youth. In attempting to provide educational stability to foster youth, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed AB 490 (Chapter 862, Statutes of 2003) in 2003. AB 490 allows foster youth to remain in their school of origin for the duration of the school year when their residential placement changes and remaining in the same school is in the child's best interest. The lack of transportation remains an obstacle in the proper implementation of the educational stability provisions of AB 490.

AB 1067 seeks to address this barrier by ensuring California complies with recent federal law (HR 6893) in order to be eligible for available federal funding for travel costs for youth in foster care. Recent federal legislation the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act requires child welfare agencies to improve educational stability for children in foster care by coordinating with local educational agencies to ensure children remain in their school of origin, unless that is not in the child's best interest.

Educational stability is crucial in addressing and improving the educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care.

Sponsor

Assemblymember Julia Brownley

Support

Opposition

Bill History

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