

AB 823 (Dickinson)

Children's Cabinet of California

SUMMARY

AB 823 establishes the Children's Cabinet of California to consist of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and the head of each agency and department within the state that provides services for, or has jurisdiction over the well being of, children.

Powers and duties would include: 1) Promoting and implementing information sharing; 2) Collaboration; 3) Increased efficiency, and; 4) Improved service delivery among and within the state's child-serving agencies, departments, and organizations.

BACKGROUND

At least 18 states have established, through legislative or executive orders, cross-agency coordinating bodies that are systematically changing the fragmented and ineffective way states typically do business for children and youth.

Children's cabinets are made up of heads of government agencies who meet on a regular basis with the collective goal of coordinating services, developing a common set of outcomes, and implementing plans to foster the well-being of young people.

California's budget crisis, and realignment effort, demand even greater coordination to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of services, the elimination of duplicative efforts, the maximizing of federal funding, in addition to clearly established priorities and outcome measures for children.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THIS BILL

The bill finds and declares the intent of the Legislature as follows:

(a) All state agencies and programs that touch the lives of children and youth must work in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, with an emphasis on providing a continuum of services that benefit children, from prenatal care through programs supporting successful transition to self-sufficient adulthood.

(b) The Legislature, in collaboration with the Governor, intends to develop and implement a shared vision among the branches of government in order to improve child and family outcomes in this state.

(c) By working collaboratively with the Governor, the Legislature intends to do all of the following:

(1) Invest in the education and skills of our children and youth.

(2) Develop a cohesive vision and plan that ensures a long-term commitment to issues regarding children and youth.

(3) Align public resources serving children and youth to support their healthy growth and development.

(4) Promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery by all government agencies that provide services to children and youth, and their families.

AB 823 would establish the Children's Cabinet of California within state government for this purpose.

SUPPORT

Children Now (Sponsor)