

**SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair**  
**2021-2022 Regular Session**

AB 2189 (Friedman)  
Version: May 19, 2022  
Hearing Date: June 21, 2022  
Fiscal: Yes  
Urgency: No  
AWM

**SUBJECT**

Foster youth

**DIGEST**

This bill authorizes foster youth to remain in extended foster care beyond the age of 21 for the limited purpose of compliance with specified verifications of the information, documents, and services that are required to be provided by the county welfare department to the foster youth prior to emancipation, and requires a county to provide certain benefits to specified foster youth regardless of whether they are living in approved placements.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Many children who become dependents of the juvenile dependency system remain so when they are, at least chronologically, no longer children; the juvenile court retains jurisdiction over certain dependents until they attain the age of 21 years. California extended its foster care program to youths between 18 and 21 years of age in 2010 – known as “nonminor dependents” – in recognition of the extreme hardship many former foster youths faced after being emancipated from the foster system at 18 years old; data showed that former foster youths were less likely to graduate from high school or college and more likely to be homeless. Since 2010, the Legislature has passed additional measures to refine the foster care system for nonminor dependents and provide additional protections to help them ease into independence.

This bill seeks to better support youth aging out of foster care in three key ways. First, it requires verification that certain documents, information, and services have been provided to foster youth as they near aging out of foster care and then as they age out of foster care, including that the youth has applied for all public benefits to which they are entitled or has specifically declined to do so. Second, the bill requires a court, if the youth agrees, to maintain jurisdiction over them even after 21 years of age if they have not been provided with the required services, information, and documents prior to

turning 21, including assistance securing housing. Finally, the bill requires that certain foster care benefits be paid to youth, regardless of whether they are living in approved placements. The author has agreed to a minor amendment clarifying the scope of the benefits to be applied for.

This bill is sponsored by the Alliance for Children's Rights, the Children's Law Center of California, Public Counsel, and the Youth Law Center, and is supported by AdvoKids, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District IX, the California Alliance of Caregivers, the California Coalition for Youth, California Youth Connection, Children Now, Dependency Legal Services, John Burton Advocates for Youth, the National Association of Social Workers – California Chapter, and Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services. There is no known opposition. This bill was passed by the Senate Human Services Committee with a 5-0 vote.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW**

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes that the juvenile court has jurisdiction over:
  - a) A child who is subject to abuse or neglect. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 300.)
  - b) a child when that child has committed acts that trigger delinquency jurisdiction rendering the child a ward. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 601, 602.)
  - c) Any nonminor dependent, between the age of majority and 21 years, under specified conditions. A nonminor dependent under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court retains of their legal decision-making authority as an adult, except as specified. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 303, 388(e).)
- 2) Defines "nonminor dependent" for purposes of 1)(c) as a current foster youth or a nonminor under the transition jurisdiction of the court who is between 18 and 21 years old, turned 18 years old while under an order of foster care placement, is in foster care under the responsibility of the county welfare department, county probation department, or Indian Tribe, and is participating in a transitional independent living plan, as specified. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 11400(v).)
- 3) Requires the court, before exercising continuing jurisdiction over a nonminor, to find that the nonminor has been informed of their options, including the benefits of remaining in foster care and the right to petition to reenter foster care by resuming dependency jurisdiction. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 391(e).)
- 4) Requires the court to review the status of every minor or nonminor dependent in foster care at least once every six months, as specified. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 366.)
- 5) Requires the court, in regular status reviews after the youth has attained 16 years of age, to review the status of providing the youth certain information, documents, and

services, including the social security card, birth certificate, driver's license or identification card; assistance obtaining employment; assistance applying to college and financial aid; and information regarding financial literacy programs. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 366.3, 391(a).)

- 6) Requires the court, in the last regular status review before the youth has attained 18 years of age, to review the status of providing the youth certain information, documents, and services, including the social security card, birth certificate, driver's license or identification card, Medi-Cal benefits card, proof of the youth's citizenship or legal residence, and an advance health care directive. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 366.3, 391(b).)
- 7) Requires the court, in the last regular status review before the youth has attained 18 and at every regularly scheduled review hearing thereafter, to review the status of providing certain information, documents, and services to the youth, including assistance obtaining employment, assistance applying for college and financial aid, information regarding financial literacy programs, assistance in maintaining close relationships, and the whereabouts of siblings, as provided. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 366.3, 391(c).)
- 8) Prohibits a dependency court from terminating jurisdiction over a nonminor dependent until a hearing is conducted and the county welfare department does all of the following:
  - a) Ensures that the youth is present in court, unless the youth does not wish to appear in court, as provided.
  - b) Submits a report describing whether it is in the nonminor's best interests to remain under the court's dependency jurisdiction, which includes a recommended transitional independent living case plan for the nonminor, as provided.
  - c) If the county welfare department recommends termination of the court's dependency jurisdiction, submits documentation of the reasonable efforts made by the department to provide the nonminor with the assistance needed to meet or maintain eligibility as a nonminor dependent.
  - d) If the nonminor has indicated that they do not want dependency jurisdiction to continue, provides that the report addresses the manner in which the nonminor was advised of their options, including the benefits of remaining in foster care, and of their right to reenter foster care prior to attaining 21 years of age. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 391(d).)
- 9) States that the foundation and central unifying tool in child welfare services is the case plan, and requires the case plan, when appropriate, for a child who is 16 years of age or older and for a nonminor dependent, to include a transitional independent living plan (TILP), a written description of, among other things, the programs and services that will help the child, consistent with the child's best interests, prepare for

the transition from foster care to successful adulthood, and, in addition, whether the youth has an in-progress application pending for SSI benefits or for special immigrant juvenile status or other applicable application for legal residency and whether an active dependency case is required for that application. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 16501.1(g)(16).)

- 10) Requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish procedures for county welfare departments to, among other things:
- a) Determine the time and manner for conducting disability screenings for children in the custody of the county who may be eligible for social security or Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment benefits (collectively, SSI benefits).
  - b) Assist in the application process for SSI benefits for each child who has been determined to be eligible.
  - c) Request reconsideration and appeal adverse decisions where appropriate.
  - d) Inform parents and caretakers, when the child leaves foster care, of potential eligibility for SSI benefits for any child not receiving benefits but who may be eligible.
  - e) Maximize the amount of federal benefits received for the current maintenance of children in the county's custody.
  - f) Inform foster youth of their rights and responsibilities for the continued receipt of SSI benefits, the assistance that may be available if the youth have problems with receiving their benefits, and the process for transferring accumulated benefits. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 13752.)
- 11) Requires a county, when a foster youth who is receiving SSI payments is approaching their 18th birthday, to do all of the following:<sup>1</sup>
- a) Provide information to the youth regarding the federal requirement that the youth establish continuing disability as an adult, if necessary, in order for SSI benefits to continue beyond their 18th birthday.
  - b) Provide information to the youth regarding the process for becoming their own payee, or designating an appropriate representative payee if benefits continue beyond their 18th birthday, and regarding any SSI benefits that have accumulated on their behalf.
  - c) Assist the youth, as appropriate, in fulfilling the requirements of a) and b). (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 13753.)
- 12) Defines "clothing allowance" as the amount paid by a county, at the county's option, in addition to the basic rate for the provision of additional clothing for a child, including, but not limited to, an initial supply of clothing and school or other

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<sup>1</sup> SB 1300 (Durazo, 2022) would extend a county's obligation with respect to assisting a foster youth with possible benefits to nonminor dependents. SB 1300 is pending before the Assembly Human Services Committee.

uniforms. Requires the frequency and level of funding to be based on the needs of the child, as determined by the county. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 11461(f)(1).)

This bill:

- 1) Allows the juvenile court to retain jurisdiction over any ward or dependent of the court after reaching 21 years of age for the limited purpose of compliance with the following:
  - a) Unless the nonminor objects to continued jurisdiction, prevents the court from terminating jurisdiction over a nonminor dependent unless the child welfare department has submitted a report to the court verifying that specified information, documents, and services, both under existing law, as well as additional items required by this bill, including under 7), have been provided to the nonminor or if the nonminor cannot be located, verifying that efforts have been made to locate the nonminor.
  - b) Unless the nonminor objects to continued jurisdiction, prevents the court from terminating jurisdiction over a nonminor dependent who has not secured housing, until the county welfare department has submitted a report to the court verifying that the welfare department made referrals to transitional housing or provided assistance in securing other housing.
  - c) Requires, notwithstanding the age restrictions in any law providing for support, services, and benefits, for the nonminor dependent to continue to receive the support and services they were entitled to receive immediately prior to reaching 21 years of age, and benefits equal to the amount of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) benefits provided until jurisdiction has been terminated.
- 2) Clarifies that continuing jurisdiction for a nonminor dependent after 21 years of age under 1) cannot be construed to continue any terms or conditions of probation.
- 3) Authorizes the court to terminate its dependency, delinquency, or transition jurisdiction over a nonminor dependent after 21 years of age, and requires the nonminor dependent, if the court terminates dependency, delinquency, or transition jurisdiction, to remain under the general jurisdiction of the court until the nonminor reaches 21 years of age in order to allow for a petition to resume dependency.
- 4) Adds the following verification requirements to the information, documents, and services that are required to be included in the report submitted by the county welfare department at the first regularly scheduled review hearing after a dependent child has reached 16 years of age:
  - a) That the TILP is included in the case plan, as specified, how the child welfare department has complied with requirements of the Foster Care Social Security and SSI Assistance Program, and whether the child has a pending

- application for SSI or special immigrant juvenile status or residency and the status of those applications, if applicable.
- b) That documentation in the case plan includes that a consumer credit report was requested annually, and that the child has received a copy of their credit report and assistance to resolve any problems or errors found in the credit report.
  - c) That the case plan identifies persons who will be responsible for assisting the child with applications for postsecondary education and related financial aid, as specified.
  - d) That the case plan includes the health and education summary, as described.
- 5) Adds the health and education summary to the list of information, documents, and services that are required to be included in the report submitted to the court by the county welfare department at the last regularly scheduled review hearing before a dependent child reaches 18 years of age.
- 6) Adds the following verification requirements to the information, documents, and services that are required to be included in the report submitted by the county welfare department at the last regularly scheduled review hearing held before a dependent child reaches 18 years of age and at every regularly scheduled review hearing thereafter:
- a) Assistance in maintaining relationships with individuals important to the nonminor, based on the nonminor's wishes, as opposed to their best interest.
  - b) That the youth has been screened for eligibility for all public benefits and applied for all public benefits for which they may be eligible; if a discharge from foster care is contemplated at the hearing or prior to the next review hearing, there must be verification that the child or the child's caregiver has applied for all public benefits for which the child may be eligible. If the child or caregiver does not submit any or all of those applications, requires the county to submit written verification, signed by the child or caregiver, that the county welfare department offered assistance in submitting applications and that the child or caregiver made a knowing and informed decision not to submit the applications.
  - c) That the TILP has been included in the case plan, as specified, that the county has complied with the Foster Care Social Security and SSI Assistance Program, as specified, and whether the child has a pending application for SSI or special immigrant juvenile status or residency and the status of those applications, if applicable.
  - d) That the case plan includes documentation showing a consumer credit report was requested annually and that the child has received a copy of their credit report and assistance to resolve any problems or errors found in the credit report.
  - e) That the case plan identifies the person or persons who will be responsible for assisting the youth with applications for postsecondary education and related

- financial aid, as specified, and whether the youth has been provided that assistance.
- 7) Eliminates from the list of information, documents, and services that are required to be included provided to the nonminor dependent prior to the court terminating dependency jurisdiction over a nonminor dependent who has reached 18 years of age, or in the case of a youth who, after reasonable efforts by the county welfare department, cannot be located, a health and education summary, as specified.
  - 8) Adds, to the information, documents, and services that are required to be included in the report submitted by the county welfare department prior to the court terminating dependency jurisdiction over a nonminor dependent who has reached 18 years of age, or in the case of a youth who, after reasonable efforts by the county welfare department, cannot be located, a requirement that the county welfare department verify the efforts made to ensure that the youth has applied for all public benefits for which they may be eligible. If the youth does not submit any or all of those applications, the county must submit written verification, signed by the youth, that the county welfare department offered assistance in submitting applications and that the youth made a knowing and informed decision not to submit the applications.
  - 9) Applies the requirements in 8) to the probation department at the hearing for a ward who is 18 years of age or older and subject to an order for foster care placement.
  - 10) Requires a county that opts to provide a clothing allowance to also provide the clothing allowance to a youth who is under the dependency jurisdiction of the juvenile court and who would be eligible to have foster care payments paid on their behalf but for not residing in an approved placement.
  - 11) Requires a pregnant youth who is under the dependency jurisdiction of the juvenile court and who would be eligible to have foster care benefits paid on their behalf but for not residing in an approved placement to be eligible for those benefits.

### COMMENTS

#### 1. Author's comment

According to the author:

California's Extended Foster Care (EFC) program has demonstrated numerous benefits for the young adults who participate, including improvements in education, employment, and social support. However, the research has also shown that over 35 percent of youth reported that they experienced homelessness while actively enrolled in the EFC program.

The promise and potential of the EFC program falls short when we fail to connect enrollees to the services and supports that they are entitled to under the law. Both federal and state law include protections to ensure that enrollees leave foster care with a transition plan that provides the foster youth safety, stability, and an opportunity to thrive. When a county fails to meet their obligation under the law and provide assistance to secure housing, youth are exiting the system to homelessness.

## 2. Background on California's expansion of dependency jurisdiction to nonminor dependents between 18 and 21 years of age

In October 2008, the federal government enacted the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act,<sup>2</sup> which, among other things, offered additional funding to states that opted to extend foster care to youths from 18 to 21 years of age. Two years later, the Legislature enacted the California Fostering Connections to Success Act (the Act)<sup>3</sup> that authorized the juvenile courts to exercise jurisdiction over, and extend foster care benefits to, nonminor dependents between the ages of 18 to 21 who are eligible for specified public assistance and when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- The nonminor is working toward their high school education or an equivalent credential;
- The nonminor is enrolled in a postsecondary institution or vocational education program;
- The nonminor is participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment;
- The nonminor is employed for at least 80 hours per month; and/or,
- The nonminor is incapable of doing any of the activities described above, due to a medical condition, and that incapability is supported by regularly updated information in the case plan of the nonminor.<sup>4</sup>

In the years after the Act's passage, the Legislature passed several additional measures to refine, and close gaps in, the laws governing foster care for youths between 18 and 21 years of age.<sup>5</sup>

For the last twelve years, California's population of children and youths in foster care has hovered around 60,000.<sup>6</sup> Prior to the Act, the statistics surrounding 18-year-olds'

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<sup>2</sup> P.L. 110-351 (2008).

<sup>3</sup> AB 12 (Beall, Ch. 559, Stats. 2010).

<sup>4</sup> Welf. & Inst. Code § 11403.

<sup>5</sup> See AB 212 (Beall, Ch. 459, Stats. 2011), AB 1712 (Beall, Ch. 846, Stats. 2012), AB 787 (Stone, Ch. 487, Stats. 2013), AB 2454 (Quirk-Silva, Ch. 769, Stats. 2014), AB 2337 (Gipson, Ch. 539, Stats. 2018), AB 748 (Gipson, Ch. 682, Stats. 2019).

<sup>6</sup> California Child Welfare Indicators Project, University of California at Berkeley, Report: Children in Foster Care, CWS/CMS 2021 Quarter 3 Extract (Mar. 15, 2022), available at <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/PIT/MTSG/r/ab636/s> (last visited Jun. 6, 2022).

emancipation from foster care were bleak: foster youth, when compared to other young adults of the same age and race, were less likely to complete high school, attend college, or be employed, and were at a higher risk of becoming homeless, arrested, or incarcerated.<sup>7</sup> The Act and related subsequent legislation were intended to provide foster youth with the option of a smoother transition to independent adulthood. Since the Act's passage, the number of foster youth between 18 and 21 years of age has increased considerably, from under 2,500 in 2010 to 7,565 in January 2022.<sup>8</sup>

Despite these reforms, former foster youth still face significant barriers, particularly with respect to securing housing after they transfer out of the state's care. A survey conducted by the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall reported that more than 25 percent of former foster youth in California reported experiencing at least one night of homelessness in the past two years, while nearly 30 percent said they had couch surfed by staying with friends because they lacked housing.<sup>9</sup> The study questioned "the wisdom of abruptly curtailing services for these young people when they reach their 21st birthday"<sup>10</sup> and stated "when COVID-19 is behind us, it will still be the case that many young adults in case could potentially benefit from ongoing care past their 21st birthday."<sup>11</sup>

### 3. This bill seeks to provide better support for nonminor dependents emancipating out of foster care

This bill seeks to better support youth – dependents and wards – aging out of foster care, in two important ways. First, it requires verification that certain documents, information, and services have been provided to foster youth as they near aging out of foster care and then as they age out of foster care. This includes verification that the youth has been screened for eligibility for all public benefits and applied for all public benefits for which they may be eligible; that the TILP is included in the case plan, as specified; that the county has complied with the Foster Care Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Assistance Program, as specified; and whether the child has a pending application for SSI or special immigrant juvenile status or residency and the status of those applications, if applicable.

Second, the bill requires a court, if the youth agrees, to maintain jurisdiction over a youth *even after* they turn 21 if they have not been provided with required services, information, and documents before their 21st birthday. In particular, in order to prevent homelessness immediately after the termination of juvenile court jurisdiction, the bill

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<sup>7</sup> See Public Policy Institute of California, *Foster Care in California* (2010).

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Courtney, et al., *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of youth at age 23* (2020) Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, pp. 18-19, available at [https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY\\_YT\\_RE1020.pdf](https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CY_YT_RE1020.pdf) (last visited June 6, 2022).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at p. 156.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at p. 157.

provides for continued jurisdiction of a youth who has not secured housing until the county welfare department has submitted a report to the court verifying that efforts were made to assist the youth in securing housing, which could include referrals to transitional housing, if available, or assistance in securing other housing.

In addition, to continue to support the youth during this period of time, the bill requires, notwithstanding the age restrictions in any law providing for support, services, and benefits, for a nonminor dependent to continue to receive the support and services they were entitled to receive immediately prior to reaching 21 years of age, and benefits equal to the amount of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) benefits provided until jurisdiction has been terminated. This funding amount should hopefully help prevent the significant negative outcomes for foster youth emancipating from care. The bill expressly specifies that continuing jurisdiction cannot in any way be construed to continue any terms or conditions of probation, preventing the continuing jurisdiction from imposing unintended negative consequences on a ward of the juvenile court.

These provisions, taken together, are designed to help youth who have emancipated out of foster care by providing them with additional support and, if needed, more time in transitioning to adulthood and full independence. This short-term extension of support to willing young adults who have not yet received the support they should have from the foster care system should help prevent some of the negative outcomes that too often befall former foster youth, including dire poverty and homelessness.

4. This bill ensures that foster youth receive specified benefits regardless of whether they are in an approved placement

Today, because of a lack of sufficient housing for youth transitioning out of foster care, some of these youth may experience homelessness or otherwise have unstable housing arrangements. In order to better support these foster youth who are not residing in an approved placement, but who nevertheless need support, this bill seeks to provide them some additional help. If a county opts to provide a clothing allowance to foster youth, the bill requires the county to provide that clothing allowance to foster youth who are under the dependency jurisdiction but are not residing in an approved placement. Likewise, the bill requires that pregnant youth who are under the dependency jurisdiction and who would be eligible for foster care benefits if they resided in an approved placement be eligible for those benefits. These requirements should improve the conditions of foster youth in these two limited situations, particularly those who are unable to secure an approved placement because of the lack of sufficient housing.

5. Amendments

To address stakeholder concerns regarding the scope of benefits to be applied for while a foster youth or nonminor dependent is still in foster care, the author has agreed to the following amendments, subject to any nonsubstantive changes Legislative Counsel may make:

Amendment 1

On page 9, in line 10, after “eligible” insert “while they are in foster care”

Amendment 2

On page 9, in line 14, after “eligible” insert “while they are in foster care”

6. Arguments in support

According to the Alliance of Children’s Rights, a co-sponsor of the bill:

When a minor or nonminor is eligible for certain services and supports while in foster care, including supplemental support for pregnant individuals, and a clothing allowance if provided by the county, youth are currently ineligible for these payments if they do not reside in an approved placement setting. Because of the lack of sufficient housing for transition-age foster youth, many youth experience periods of homelessness and/or housing instability while in care. Under current law, youth cannot receive funding meant for their day-to-day survival when they are unhoused or in unapproved placements, which is when they need these funds most.

A second barrier to foster youth deriving a benefit from extended foster care involves inadequate discharge planning and mechanisms for accountability when county agencies fail to provide foster youth who are exiting care with essential documents, information and services that they need to survive independently. Both state and federal law provide protections to ensure that young people leave foster care with a concrete plan for discharge that provides safety, stability, and an opportunity to thrive...

However, there is no process in place to remedy the situation when the county child welfare agency does not provide youth with the documents, information, and services needed to transition successfully to independence. The law is unclear whether a court can maintain jurisdiction over a youth once they turn 21 when the county child welfare agency has failed to provide exiting youth with critical support that enables youth to secure education, employment, and most importantly, housing. Appropriate enforcement mechanisms, including keeping

a court case open past age 21, will ensure that the necessary discharge planning begins early, so that youth are less likely to exit the foster care system to homelessness...

AB 2189 will ensure that foster youth retain access to services and supports regardless of their housing status and ensure accountability with current law and successful discharge planning obligations.

### **SUPPORT**

Alliance for Children's Rights (co-sponsor)  
Children's Law Center of California (co-sponsor)  
Public Counsel (co-sponsor)  
Youth Law Center (co-sponsor)  
AdvoKids  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District IX  
California Alliance of Caregivers  
California Coalition for Youth  
California Youth Connection  
Children Now  
Dependency Legal Services  
John Burton Advocates for Youth  
National Association of Social Workers - California Chapter  
Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services

### **OPPOSITION**

None known

### **RELATED LEGISLATION**

#### **Pending Legislation:**

SB 1300 (Durazo, 2022) revises and expands provisions requiring a county to assist a youth approaching 18 years of age to determine eligibility and to apply for federal disability-related benefits to include assistance for nonminor dependents between the ages of 18 and 21 who remained in the foster system after reaching the age of majority. SB 1300 is pending before the Assembly Human Services Committee.

AB 2502 (Cervantes, 2022) extends juvenile court jurisdiction and support to nonminor dependents who turn 21 years of age during a state of emergency, and is similar to SB 912 (Beall, 2020). AB 2502 is pending before the Senate Human Services Committee.

Prior Legislation:

SB 912 (Beall, 2021), would have made a nonminor dependent who turned 21 years of age between March 4, 2020, and June 30, 2021, eligible to continue receiving extended foster care support through June 30, 2021; and, for a state of emergency declared by the Governor on or after January 1, 2021, required that extended foster care support continue for six months from the date of the declaration for a nonminor dependent who turned 21 years of age while the state of emergency is in effect. SB 912 was vetoed by Governor Gavin Newsom, who stated in his veto message that, because disasters and pandemics vary and are difficult to predict, the bill would obligate the State to a specific approach that may not always be the most prudent or effective.

AB 592 (Friedman, Ch. 702, Stats. 2021) expanded the scope of a host family within the foster care system to include supervised transitional housing services provided by a transitional housing provider (THP); permitted a host family to include certain approved placements and declared that those placements, when operating as a host family, do not require additional certification; expanded the definition of a Supervised Independent Living Setting (SILS) to include a transitional housing unit in which a host family lives with a nonminor dependent; allowed a THP provider to offer supportive services to a nonminor dependent placed in a certified family home or resource family of a foster family agency; and allowed a county to elect to allow a THP provider to provide services to a youth in SILS.

AB 1979 (Friedman, Ch. 141, Stats. 2020) addressed the housing needs of nonminor dependents in the child welfare system by expanding the definition of a supervised independent living setting (SILS), as provided, requiring counties to examine their ability to meet nonminor dependents' emergency housing needs, and preserving a nonminor dependent's transitional housing placement during an absence of up to 14 days, as provided.

AB 748 (Gipson, Ch. 682, Stats. 2019) provided that a youth who was subject to an order for foster care before they reached 18 years of age, but was not yet adjudged a dependent of the juvenile court before reaching their 18th birthday, is eligible for extended foster care benefits.

AB 2337 (Gipson, Ch. 539, Stats. 2018) expanded the circumstances under which a nonminor dependent under the age of 21 who was previously a dependent or delinquent of the juvenile court may petition to assume dependency jurisdiction to include a youth who met all of the existing eligibility requirements, except received SSI benefits in lieu of foster care payments.

AB 2454 (Quirk-Silva, C. 769, Stats. 2014) expanded nonminor eligibility under the Act by authorizing a nonminor who has not attained 21 years of age to petition the court to assume dependency jurisdiction if the nonminor received public assistance after

attaining 18 years of age, as specified, and their former guardian or guardians or adoptive parent or parents no longer provide ongoing support to, and no longer receive payment on behalf of, the nonminor, and the court determines that it is in the nonminor's best interest for the court to assume dependency jurisdiction.

AB 787 (Stone, Ch. 487, Stats. 2013) expanded on the Act by, among other things, authorizing the court to order a nonminor dependent to reside in additional locations and allowing a nonminor dependent to petition for the court to assume jurisdiction over themselves if they receive certain public assistance and specified other conditions were met.

AB 1712 (Beall, Ch. 846, Stats. 2012) refined the Act by, among other things, expanding eligibility to specified youths between 18 and 21 years of age not covered by the Act and making nonminor dependents in the foster system eligible for certain services and benefits.

AB 212 (Beall, Ch. 459, Stats. 2011) built on the Act by, among other things, authorizing certain nonminor dependents to continue receiving Kin-GAP funding after they attained 18 years of age and recasting and revising certain definitions applicable to the extension of AFDC-FC payments to nonminor dependents in accordance with a transitional independent living case plan.

AB 12 (Beall, Ch. 559, Stats. 2010), enacted the enacted the California Fostering Connections to Success Act and extended transitional foster care services to eligible youth between 18 and 21 years of age and extended certain services to current or former wards of the juvenile court between 18 and 21 years of age, as specified.

**PRIOR VOTES:**

Senate Human Services Committee (Ayes 5, Noes 0)

Assembly Floor (Ayes 76, Noes 0)

Assembly Appropriations Committee (Ayes 12, Noes 0)

Assembly Judiciary Committee (Ayes 9, Noes 0)

Assembly Human Services Committee (Ayes 8, Noes 0)

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