



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2009

LCO No. 9342

HB0542509342HDO

Offered by:

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

SEN. DOYLE, 9th Dist.

REP. ABERCROMBIE, 83rd Dist.

REP. JARMOC, 59th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5425

File No. 498

Cal. No. 319

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) The Commissioner of
4 Children and Families shall prepare a written statement of goals for
5 the care of children and youth in the custody of the commissioner. The
6 written statement of goals for the care of such children shall include,
7 but not be limited to: (1) Assessments of physical health, medical
8 history, mental health, education, family situation and history of
9 substance use, if any; (2) provision of clinically-indicated and
10 appropriate substance abuse, physical, mental and dental treatment
11 and services; (3) access to public education, including special
12 education when needed; (4) provision of community-based services to
13 promote the safety and well-being of children and families designed to

14 increase the strength and stabilities of families; (5) placement in the
15 least restrictive setting that is appropriate; (6) freedom from
16 discrimination in accordance with state and federal law; (7) safe
17 housing free from abuse and the unlawful use of physical force; (8)
18 effective legal representation in administrative and legal proceedings;
19 (9) confidentiality in accordance with state law and protections against
20 self-incrimination for statements related to the child's or youth's
21 treatment or assessment for treatment; and (10) periodic evaluations
22 for the effectiveness of treatment in accordance with federal law.

23 (b) The department shall provide each child or youth in the custody
24 of the commissioner and the parent or relative caregiver of such child
25 or youth a copy of the written statement described in subsection (a) of
26 this section, not later than September 1, 2009, or thirty days after the
27 commissioner is granted custody of the child or youth. No cause of
28 action or basis for a court order shall arise against the department for
29 its failure to meet any of the goals identified in its written statement.

30 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
31 study the policies, practices and procedures of the Department of
32 Children and Families relating to child abuse and neglect cases. The
33 task force shall analyze the rules and regulations of the department
34 relating to such cases.

35 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

36 (1) One representative of the office of the Attorney General,
37 Department of Child Protection appointed by the Attorney General;

38 (2) One representative of the Commission on Children;

39 (3) One representative of public defenders in the superior court for
40 juvenile matters appointed by the Chief Public Defender;

41 (4) One attorney who represents children or parents in child abuse
42 and neglect cases appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

43 (5) One attorney who represents children or parents in child abuse

- 44 and neglect cases appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 45 (6) The Commissioner of Children and Families or the
46 commissioner's designee;
- 47 (7) Two persons who have been involved with the department in a
48 child abuse or neglect case appointed by the Governor;
- 49 (8) One member of the Senate appointed by the president pro
50 tempore of the Senate;
- 51 (9) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the
52 speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 53 (10) Two community advocates for children, one each appointed by
54 the majority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority
55 leader of the House of Representatives;
- 56 (11) A judge of the superior court for juvenile matters appointed by
57 the Chief Justice; and
- 58 (12) The Child Advocate or the Child Advocate's designee.
- 59 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
60 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
61 filled by the appointing authority.
- 62 (d) The member of the Senate appointed by the president pro
63 tempore of the Senate and the member of the House of Representatives
64 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve
65 as the chairpersons of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
66 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no later than
67 sixty days after the effective date of this section.
- 68 (e) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit all
69 rules and regulations of the department to the task force at the first
70 meeting of the task force.
- 71 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the

72 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
73 services shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

74 (g) Not later than February 1, 2010, the task force shall submit a
75 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
76 statutes, on its findings and recommendations, pursuant to subsection
77 (h) of this section, to the joint standing committee of the General
78 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
79 the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
80 matters relating to children. The task force shall terminate on August 1,
81 2010.

82 (h) The report of the task force, submitted in accordance with
83 subsection (g) of this section, shall include, but not be limited to: (1) An
84 analysis of the department's rules and regulations relating to child
85 abuse and neglect; (2) identification of agency goals and indicators of
86 progress, including benchmarks, for the department's operations to
87 reduce the number of child abuse and neglect cases using a results-
88 based accountability procedure; and (3) recommendations for ways to
89 improve support services necessary to strengthen families involved
90 with the department."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section