



ASSEMBLYWOMAN PILAR SCHIAVO

AB 1914 – Planning for Childcare Access Act

Summary

AB 1914 helps communities support working families and more effectively plan for growth. This bill does so by requiring communities integrate childcare into all elements of their general plan, ensuring that local governments consider the impact of transportation, emergencies, and more on the availability and accessibility of childcare.

Background

Proactive planning to improve childcare availability and to maximize the impact of public investments can play a meaningful role in supporting families across California. Childcare access is closely tied to where housing is located, how people travel, and community safety, yet it is not consistently considered in local land use and general planning processes and decision-making. As a result, opportunities to increase the supply of safe and affordable childcare in the local community may be missed, or barriers may persist, unintentionally.

Given the importance of affordable and quality childcare to the needs of the community, it is increasingly important to examine accessibility while communities plan for future growth and infrastructure. Instead of relying solely on after-the-fact ad hoc solutions, this approach is a forward-looking strategy to promote greater consistency and consideration of childcare in earlier stages of the local planning process, while preserving local discretion.

Forward-thinking and planning helps direct and leverage public and private resources to support the development and operation of childcare facilities. Integrating the childcare needs of those who live and work in the jurisdiction into the city or county's planning processes will also help co-locate childcare services in or near housing, transportation, and employment centers that are convenient to residents and workers. Considering zoning ordinance revisions to support the establishment of large family childcare homes and centers that comply with existing by-right state laws through a simplified and

streamlined review process would support the goals of increasing childcare availability and access.

Communities across California have seen an increasing number of disasters in recent years that make including childcare in emergency planning and climate adaptation critical. Resilience strategies supported by general plans with childcare considerations will ensure children are cared for before, during, and after disasters and that they have access to safe, healthy learning environments. In addition to disaster planning, including childcare as a sensitive receptor site in public safety planning will help communities discern where it is safest to plan childcare sites in relation to industrial and other zoning locations.

Current Law

(GOV § 65302) Enumerates seven elements that must be considered within a local general plan. Currently, California law does not require local general plans to incorporate childcare into any of the seven elements.

This Bill

AB 1914 will require that childcare be included in local general plans any time two or more elements are being updated after January 2028. A county or city will be required to update all elements to include childcare, where appropriate, but at a minimum in the land use, circulation, housing, safety, and environmental justice elements.

Support

Low Income Investment Fund (sponsor)

For More Information

Miriam Farouk, Office of Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo
miriam.farouk@asm.ca.gov or (916) 319-2040