



ASSEMBLYWOMAN QUIRK-SILVA, 65TH DISTRICT

AB 1944 (QUIRK-SILVA): FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS: REASONABLE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR SCHOOL

SUMMARY

Children and youth in foster care have the right to stay in their school of origin after moving to a new placement to promote school stability and improve educational outcomes. A school of origin can be:

- The school the child/youth attended when first entered the foster care system,
- The school the child/youth recently attended, or
- Any school the child/youth attended in the last 15 months that feels connected to.

These “school of origin rights” include funding reimbursement for a child/youth’s transportation cost as part of the foster care maintenance payment. However, transportation funds do not begin until the caregiver(s)/foster parent(s) are approved through the resource family approval process, which means children and youth placed with emergency caregivers before resource family approval must wait before funding is available to transport the child/youth to their school of origin.

BACKGROUND

Students in the California foster care system have the poorest outcomes of any subgroup (51% of foster youth graduate high school compared to the 84% state average), due in part to the fact that children/youth in foster care change schools an average of eight times, losing four to six months of their educational progress with each move. Existing law (Welfare and Institutions Code §11461.36) states that counties shall provide payments to resource/foster homes for providing transportation to a child/youth’s school of origin once they are approved as resource families. Yet the point of approval is too late for the child/youth placed with a home prior approval as a resource family.

THIS BILL

This bill will enhance educational outcomes and promote educational stability by ensuring that foster youth and children who qualify for school transportation reimbursement receive the support even if the caregiver has not completed the resource family approval process. This bill will:

- Provide families with a notice of a youth’s right to attend their school of origin and receive reimbursements funds for transportation cost,
- Ensure that funding for transportation starts at the time of placement or within 3 working days after identifying the student’s school of origin.

SUPPORT

Alliance for Children’s Rights (Co-Sponsor)
California Youth Connection (Co-Sponsor)
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
Children’s Law Center of California
County Welfare Directors Association
Foster Parent Alliance of Marin

CONTACT INFORMATION

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