



Assembly Member Bill Quirk, 20th Assembly District

AB 1294 – CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PILOT SUNSET REMOVAL

(UPDATED – 6.30.21)

BACKGROUND

In 2015 AB 833 (Chapter 563, Statutes of 2015) authorized Alameda County to develop and implement a five-year individualized county childcare subsidy pilot plan to maximize allocated funding and efficiently use childcare subsidy funds to meet local conditions, providing children and families access to quality child care. The pilot enabled Alameda County to retain an estimated \$5 million in 2018-19 fiscal year and serve more than 12,000 children and contract with 30 agencies. More than half (53%) of the children that received childcare were Hispanic/Latino. Black or African American and Asian children represented the second and third largest shares.

In 2016 AB 2368 (Chapter 574, Statutes of 2016) authorized Santa Clara County to develop and implement a nearly identical program to the pilot program in Alameda County. For the 2018-19 fiscal year, the Santa Clara county pilot served 10,228 children. More than 50% of the children served under this pilot came from families at or under 50% of state median income.

EXISTING LAW

Existing law authorizes the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Marin, Monterey, San Benito, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma, as individual pilot projects, to develop an individualized county childcare subsidy plan, as provided. Existing law sunsets each of these pilot programs on different dates.

PROBLEM

Existing law does not reflect the fiscal reality of living in the County of Alameda or the County of Santa Clara. The cost of living in both these counties is well beyond the state median level, resulting in reduced access to quality childcare. In recognition of the unintended consequences of living in a high-cost county, which have been intensified by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this pilot program is necessary to provide children and families in the

Counties of Alameda and Santa Clara proper and continued equitable access to childcare, and support the counties' economic recovery through individualized county childcare subsidy plans. While these programs have been immensely successful, the Alameda County pilot program sunsets on July 1, 2021, and the Santa Clara County pilot program sunsets on July 1, 2022.

SOLUTION

AB 1294 removes the sunset for the individualized county childcare subsidy plan pilot projects for the Counties of Alameda and Santa Clara, making both programs permanent.

SUPPORT

- Alameda County Board of Supervisors (Sponsor)
- County of Santa Clara (Sponsor)
- Santa Clara County Office of Education (Sponsor)
- Alma State Preschool
- Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement
- California Child Care Coordinators Association
- Child Care Providers United (CCPU)
- City of San Jose
- Community Child Care Council (4C's) of Alameda County
- County Welfare Director's Association of California (CWDA)
- Ephesian Children's Center
- San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Supporting Future Growth
- UDW/AFSCME Local 3930

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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