



AB 393: Child Care and Development Programs Transition

SUMMARY

AB 393 supports the transfer of child care and development programs from the California Department of Education (CDE) to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to create a more equitable and integrated child care and social safety net system for families, children and providers.

EXISTING LAW/BACKGROUND

The first five years of life are the most important for a child's brain development. Providing supportive, nurturing early care and education during these crucial years enhances a child's opportunity to succeed in the K-12 system, and ultimately, in higher education and the workforce. Access to comprehensive child care and developmental programs dramatically improves opportunity for socioeconomic mobility for low-income families.

Recognizing the critical importance of this issue, Assembly Speaker Rendon created the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) for Early Childhood Education in 2016. Over the course of seven hearings across the state, advocates, parents, providers, industry professionals, and policymakers discussed the needs of families and barriers to access and future expansion of these programs.

The BRC also discovered that these programs are governed by a bifurcated system, with programming scattered across CDE, CDSS and the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

In response to this reality, Governor Newsom requested and the Legislature approved funding

for the California Health and Human Services Agency to develop a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care in 2019. The following year, the Governor's Budget enacted the Early Childhood Development Act of 2020, which required the transfer of child care and development programs to CDSS.

Both the BRC report and The Master Plan for Early Learning and Care build upon past recommendations and research to create a roadmap for this transition. However, additional legislation is needed to complete and fine-tune the transfer of programs between the departments.

THIS BILL

AB 393 helps complete the ongoing transfer of child care and development programs from CDE to CDSS, as funded by the 2020-21 Budget. This bill will also require CDSS to report back to the legislature on the emergency supports issued to children, families, and providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the ongoing emergency needs that must be addressed.

AB 393 supports an early childhood system that uplifts the voices of parents and providers and addresses the comprehensive needs of California's children in light of the pandemic.

SUPPORT

Child Care Resource Center California (Co-sponsor)
Every Child California (Co-sponsor)
Kidango (Co-sponsor)
Early Edge California