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SB-1090 Family Urgent Response System. (2021-2022)

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Senate Bill No. 1090

CHAPTER 833

An act to amend Section 16526 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster youth.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State September 29, 2022.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1090, Hurtado. Family Urgent Response System.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish a statewide hotline as the entry point for a Family Urgent Response System to respond to calls from caregivers or current or former foster children or youth during moments of instability. Existing law requires the hotline to include, among other things, referrals to a county-based mobile response system, which counties are required to establish, for further support and in-person response. Existing law defines the term "current or former foster child or youth" for the purposes of these provisions as a child or youth found to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as either a dependent or delinquent child and who is served by the county child welfare agency or probation department and a child or youth who has exited foster care to reunification, guardianship, or adoption.

This bill would expand that definition to also include, among others, a child or youth who is placed in foster care and is the subject of a petition to declare them a dependent child of the juvenile court. By expanding county duties relating to the county-based mobile response system, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 16526 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

16526. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Caregiver" means a person responsible for meeting the daily care needs of a current or former foster child or youth, and who is entrusted to provide a loving and supportive environment for the child or youth to promote their healing from trauma.

(b) "Current or former foster child or youth" includes a child or youth who is adjudicated under Section 300, 601, or 602 and is served by a county child welfare agency or probation department, a child or youth who has exited foster care for any reason, including, but not limited to, reunification, guardianship, adoption, or emancipation, a child or youth who is the subject of a

voluntary placement agreement as defined in subdivision (p) of Section 11400, a child or youth who is placed in foster care and is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Section 300, and a child or youth placed in California pursuant to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. A current or former foster child or youth shall be eligible for services under this chapter until they attain 21 years of age.

(c) "Department" means the State Department of Social Services.

(d) "Family Urgent Response System" means a coordinated statewide, regional, and county-level system designed to provide collaborative and timely state-level phone-based response and county-level in-home, in-person mobile response during situations of instability, for purposes of preserving the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth, providing developmentally appropriate relationship conflict management and resolution skills, stabilizing the living situation, mitigating the distress of the caregiver or child or youth, connecting the caregiver and child or youth to the existing array of local services, and promoting a healthy and healing environment for children, youth, and families.

(e) "In-home" means the place where the child or youth and caregiver are located, preferably in the home, or at some other mutually agreeable location.

(f) "Instability" means a situation of emotional tension or interpersonal conflict between a caregiver and a child or youth that may threaten their relationship and may lead to a disruption in the current living situation.

(g) "Mobile response" means the provision of in-person, flexible, responsive, and supportive services where the caregiver and child or youth are located to provide them with support and prevent the need for a 911 call or law enforcement contact.

SEC. 2. To the extent that this act has an overall effect of increasing the costs already borne by a local agency for programs or levels of service mandated by the 2011 Realignment Legislation within the meaning of Section 36 of Article XIII of the California Constitution, it shall apply to local agencies only to the extent that the state provides annual funding for the cost increase. Any new program or higher level of service provided by a local agency pursuant to this act above the level for which funding has been provided shall not require a subvention of funds by the state or otherwise be subject to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.