

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: July 16, 2018

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No.: 18-0002-S61
Assignment No.: 18-05-0467

SUBJECT: AB 2626 (Mullin) Child Care Services

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution to include in the City's 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 2626 (Mullin) Child Care Services, which would ease certain requirements regarding access to California subsidized child care, including allowing families seeking employment, homeless or incapacitated to be certified for a minimum 12-month period rather than 6 months, and eliminating the requirement that at least half of all students at subsidized child care centers be four years old, allowing for greater flexibility in enrollment.

SUMMARY

The attached Resolution (Harris-Dawson - Price) was introduced on May 15, 2018 and states that child care is an important issue for many Los Angeles families and constitutes a significant portion of many low- to middle-income working families' income. The Resolution states that according to a recent study, only one in seven children who are eligible for subsidized child care receive those services. Many families are unable to access the services because of challenging enrollment requirements or difficult regulations. The Resolution states that there has been recent legislation which has allowed 13 counties in California to set exception to statewide requirements for early learning and child care subsidized programs which expands access to service.

Assemblymember Kevin Mullin introduced Assembly Bill 2626 which would provide that a family seeking employment or experiencing homelessness as a basis for initial eligibility or ongoing eligibility shall receive services for not more than five days per week at six and half hours per day for not less than 12 months.

The Resolution recommends that the City support AB 2626.

BACKGROUND

The Child Care and Development Services Act provides child care and development services as part of a coordinated, comprehensive, and cost-effective system serving children from birth to 13 years old. The intent of this legislation is to allow all families to have access to child care and developmental services irrespective of their demographic background or special needs. The legislation provides families with the opportunity to reach financial stability through employment while also taking care of the growth and development of their children. The legislation requires families to meet certain criteria to be eligible for the services such as: the family must be either a current aid recipient, income eligible, homeless, or one whose children are recipients of protective services. To be eligible for the services, participants must earn less than 70% of the State Median Income (SMI) or have an ongoing income at or below 85% SMI.

AB 2626 eases certain conditions and regulations that would expand the number of recipients of these services. AB 2026 makes changes regarding subsidized child care and California State Preschool Programs (CSPP). The changes include: raising the income eligibility threshold for families applying for the services, removing certain age restrictions for CSPP, and providing training to the staff of providers of contracted center-based care, among others.

Furthermore, the bill includes “experiencing homelessness or incapacitation” alongside “seeking employment” as a reason for which a family may be establishing eligibility for subsidized child care. Additionally, the bill modifies the definition of income eligibility of a family’s adjusted monthly income to at or below 80% of the state median income, versus 70% as it is currently.

By expanding definition of eligibility and by increasing the income eligibility from 70% to 80% of the state median income, AB 2626 increases access to subsidized early learning and care program for families and maximizes efficient use of subsidized funding. Support for AB 2626 is consistent with the City’s goal to reduce homelessness and benefitting families seeking employment or experiencing homelessness to provide better child care to their families.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Housing and Community Investment Department

BILL STATUS

02/15/18	Read first time. To print.
03/08/18	Referred to Coms. on HUM. S. and ED.
04/11/18	From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on ED. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (April 10).
04/12/18	Read second time and amended.
04/17/18	From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on ED. Read second time and amended.
04/30/18	From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (April 25).
05/01/18	Read second time and amended.
05/23/18	In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.
05/25/18	Joint Rule 62(a), file notice suspended.
05/25/18	Coauthors revised.
05/25/18	From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 16. Noes 0.) (May 25).
05/31/18	Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate.
06/04/18	In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.
06/13/18	Referred to Coms. on ED. and HUMAN S.

- 06/20/18 From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on HUMAN S. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (June 20). Re-referred to Com. on HUMAN S.
- 06/21/18 From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on HUMAN S.
- 06/27/18 From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (June 26). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.



Pranita Amatya
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, child care is an important issue for many Los Angeles families; and

WHEREAS, child care expense constitute a significant portion of many low- to middle-income working families'; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent study, of all children in California who are eligible for subsidized child care, only one in seven receive these services; and

WHEREAS, many families are unable to access the services because of challenging enrollment requirements or difficult regulations; and

WHEREAS, recent legislation has allowed 13 counties in California to set exceptions to statewide requirements for early learning and child care subsidized programs; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the Assembly is, AB 2626 (Mullin), which would apply current early care and education subsidized program exceptions afforded in 13 counties to families and providers throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, AB 2626 would provide that a family seeking employment or experiencing homelessness as a basis for initial eligibility or ongoing eligibility shall receive services for not more than five days per week at six and half hours per day for not less than 12 months; and

WHEREAS, because the legislation increases access to subsidized early learning and care program for all families and maximizes efficient use of subsidized funding, families seeking employment or experiencing homelessness would be able to provide better childcare to their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 2626 which would ease certain requirements regarding access to California subsidized child care, including allowing families seeking employment, homeless or incapacitated to be certified for a minimum 12-month period rather than 6 months, and eliminating the requirement that at least half of all students at subsidized child care centers be four years old, allowing for greater flexibility in enrollment.

Presented By: _____
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

Seconded By: _____

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