

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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, approximately 24,000 teenagers in the United States foster care system turn 18 years old each year and "age out" of the system and foster care benefits; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, California established Assembly Bill (AB) 12, the Extended Foster Care Program, allowing youth in the system to remain eligible for foster care benefits until the age of 21; and

WHEREAS, young adults ages 16 to 21 in the foster care system, also known as transition-age foster youth, are among the most economically vulnerable populations in California; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2020 national survey, nearly 1 in 5 young adults from foster care reported food insecurity and almost 65 percent of transition-age foster youth lost employment during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, despite the passage of AB 12, transition-age foster youth are more likely to struggle with meeting their basic needs as young adults and maintaining sustainable employment; and

WHEREAS, to receive financial and housing assistance, transition-age foster youth must prove to a judge that they are working, training, enrolled in school, or looking for a job; and

WHEREAS, due to these requirements, transition-age foster youth are the least likely population to benefit from federally-funded job training and career preparation services; and

WHEREAS, only 1 in 5 foster youth access employment programs and/or vocational training during the time they transition out of the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2022, California Assemblymember Isaac Bryan introduced AB 1861, the California Foster Youth Hiring Tax Credit, which would allow qualifying employers to receive a scaling tax credit of up to \$10,000 for each eligible transition-age foster youth at extreme risk of homelessness that they employ; and

WHEREAS, AB 1861 prioritizes the employment of eligible current and former foster youth between the ages of 16 and 26 years, including "crossover" youth involved in the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, AB 1861 would connect transition-age foster youth to employment and career opportunities, help them achieve self-sufficiency, and prevent homelessness and housing instability, while reducing taxes and meeting the employment needs of business owners in California;

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 2021-22 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1861, which will provide employment and career development opportunities for current and former foster youth, as well as tax credit incentives for businesses to hire transition-age foster youth.

PRESENTED BY:

CURREN PRICE

Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY:

MAR 25 2022

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