

**Alert: Please Take Action!**

**Information Bulletin**

**General Background**

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### **Legislative Session Winds Down; Some Major Child Care Bills Moving**

There are three days left in the FY 2005-06 Session and both houses are furiously taking up the measures of the opposite house. Expect late night floor sessions for the final days. Hundreds of bills live or die during these late hours of tugging and pulling.

If you went to the third floor of the Capitol any day this week, you would see fifty or so lobbyists stacked up outside the member entrance of each house's floor. They're trying to make one last contact with some key legislator, or counter something that the opposition said about their bill.

There are several major child care and development bills that have had eleventh hour amendments and are moving. Two of these are AB 172 (Chan) - the legislation to implement the Governor's targeted preschool initiative - and SB 697 (Kuehl) - the labor-sponsored bill to allow the organization of licensed and license-exempt family child care providers. Since the Field has had little or no opportunity to weigh in on these two bills, I will summarize the amendments or status in this CDPI Bulletin.

#### **AB 172 (Chan) - As amended today**

##### The preschool program

A participating preschool program shall include (1) age- and developmentally-appropriate activities, and (2) opportunities for parents and guardians to work with their children on interactive literacy activities.

A participating preschool shall coordinate the provision of all of the following:

Parenting education to support the development of the child's literacy skills, including, but not limited to, (1) providing support for the educational growth and success of their

children, (2) improving the parent-school communications and parental understanding of school structures and expectations, and (3) becoming active partners with teachers in the education of their children.

Referrals, as necessary, to providers of instruction in adult education and English as a second language in order to improve the academic skills of parents and guardians of children in participating classrooms.

#### The literacy coordinator

A local education agency on behalf of one or more participating preschool may select a program coordinator whose duties may include the following: (1) developing a system to coordinate the provision of literacy services to families at the LEA and community level, (2) creating an organizational partnership between each preschool and an adult education program operated by an LEA or other community provider, as needed, and (3) promoting parental involvement in participating classrooms.

#### Staff development

As a condition of receipt of these funds, the preschool shall provide staff development for teachers in participating classrooms that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following: (1) development of a pedagogical knowledge including improved instructional strategies, (2) knowledge and application of developmentally appropriate assessments of pre-reading skills, and (3) information on working with families, including the use of on site coaching for guided practice in interactive literacy activities.

#### Wrap-around

The SPI shall encourage participating preschools to offer full-day services through a combination of part-day preschool slots and part-day general child care and development programs. In order to facilitate a full day of services, all of the following shall apply:

Part-day preschool programs shall operate between 175 and 180 days.

Part-day general child care and development programs may operate a minimum of 246 days per year, with exceptions. A general child care program may operate a full-day for the remainder of the year after the completion of the preschool program.

#### The funding

Full-day programs shall be reimbursed at no more than the SRR with adjustment factors. Of the allocated \$50 million, \$45 million is for reimbursing participating preschools on a per-child basis at the SRR rate and \$5 million is to be distributed to each participating classroom at a rate of \$2,500 per classroom per year per school. These funds may be used for (1) compensation and support costs for program coordinators, (2) staff development, (3) family literacy services, and (4) instructional materials, including consumables.

\$5 million is allocated to provide direct child care services to meet the needs of parents for the portion of each day that is not covered by these program funding.

\$150,000 is appropriated to the CDE to administer the new program.

#### The children

Programs must be located in the attendance area of elementary schools in API deciles 1

to 3, inclusive. Preference shall be for under-served areas. Preschools shall serve children who will attend kindergarten in the subsequent year; no child shall receive services for more than one year.

Generally, the program will be income-tested. The child shall meet the standard eligibility requirements in order to participate. However, services may be provided to children above the income eligibility threshold if the number of contracted slots exceeds the number of eligible children. No more than 20 percent of contracted slots may be filled by children in families above the income eligibility threshold.

### Evaluation and report

The SPI shall conduct an— evaluation of the effectiveness of pre-kindergarten and family literacy programs, subject to the availability of funds.

The CDE shall report on the number of children served above the income eligibility threshold and the age of all children served.

AB 172 will probably get a last-minute, policy committee hearing off the Senate floor and then be passed by the Senate. Following Assembly concurrence in Senate amendments, the bill will go to the Governor who is expected to sign it into law.

### **SB 697 (Kuehl) - Two quick committee hearings**

SB 697, previously an unrelated measure by a different author, has been "gutted and amended" to contain most of the labor provisions of SB 1600 (Kuehl) which died in the Senate. Sponsored by AFSCME and SEIU, the new SB 697 is being moved in the final days of the session without real consideration of the impact on sensitive child care issues, such as eligibility, rate-setting, and waiting lists.

Last Wednesday, days after the "gut and amend," the bill was heard by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. There was a lengthy committee analysis, mostly on technical labor issues. The Consultant did note some of the child care concerns that the Senate raised on SB 1600 but the Labor Committee paid little attention.

Besides Labor, a number of family child care providers testified in support, saying that their reimbursement was inadequate. Opposing the measure were CCDAA, PACE, CDPI, CAPP, The LA Alliance, and CTA. The concerns raised were summarily dismissed.

This afternoon, a non-advertised hearing on the bill was held off the Assembly floor by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Senator Kuehl briefly presented the measure. She skipped the labor issues but spoke to the fiscal issues which she said were four:

On the issue of APs being hit with uncompensated negotiation cost under the bill, she said that there should be plenty of funds for that purpose under the new 1% admin increase that APs just got.

On the issue of collection of union dues, she said that collection by the employer (or contractor) is permitted but not required.

On the union election process, the cost is to be borne by the union.

On the issue raised by CTA about pressure on the use of Prop 98 funds, she said that the Legislature must approve any allocation of Education dollars in the Budget process.

Nonetheless, the Committee requested a Prop 98 amendment which would place a "lid"

on the Prop 98 exposure as a result of the bill. The author accepted the amendment.

SB 697 passed out on a "B roll call," meaning all Democrats voting for it and all Republicans voting against it. SB 697 now goes to the Assembly floor and then back to the Senate for concurrence in Assembly amendments. Just like the two committee hearings, both final actions seem preordained.

The Governor is expected to veto the bill.

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[Download Kuehl bill here](#)

[Download Chan bill here](#)

The newest amended versions may not yet be on line. You may need to check back at the Legislative web site links above.

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