University of San Diego

Digital USD

Children's Legislative Report Card

Children's Advocacy Institute

1-1-2012

2012 Children's Legislative Report Card

Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.sandiego.edu/law_cai_clrc

Digital USD Citation

Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law, "2012 Children's Legislative Report Card" (2012). *Children's Legislative Report Card*. 9.

https://digital.sandiego.edu/law_cai_clrc/9

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Children's Advocacy Institute at Digital USD. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Legislative Report Card by an authorized administrator of Digital USD. For more information, please contact digital@sandiego.edu.

CHILDREN'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 2011–12 REPORT CARD TERM: 2012

Dear Californians,

This Report Card reflects the grades attributed to California legislators for their votes on child-related legislation during the second year of the 2011–12 legislative session. The grades you will see reflect each legislator's votes on 43 bills that ran through policy and fiscal committees and achieved votes on both the Assembly and Senate floors. This Report Card also includes two additional bills—an Assembly bill that was killed in the Suspense File of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, and a Senate bill that was killed in the Suspense File of the Senate Appropriations Committee. For those measures, all legislators in the house of origin received "no" votes, reflecting the fact that they allowed the bill to die in the Suspense File without an affirmative vote. Thus, this Report Card reflects each legislator's actions on 44 total measures.

For reasons set forth in the Methodology section, we are also indicating each legislator's "aye" vote percentage excluding the legislator's excused absences on bills where the floor vote was not close (*i.e.*, the bill passed with a margin of at least 5 votes in the Senate and 10 votes in the Assembly). This percentage is provided to the extent the reader feels that personal factors necessitating an excused absence properly influence a judgment on the performance of legislators.

This *Report Card* is intended to educate and inform you of your legislators' actions on a selection of bills that would have benefited children if enacted. This *Report Card* cannot tell you all there is to know about your elected officials. Accordingly, we urge you to communicate frequently with them so they know your expectations of them for California's children.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Fellmeth

Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Institute

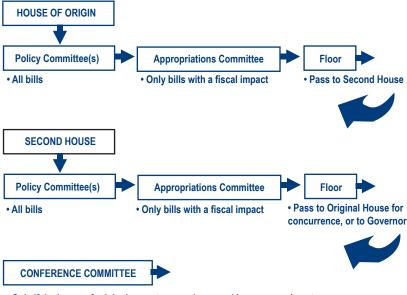
Rober (. Felhest



A Primer THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

After introduction by a legislator, a bill is heard in the appropriate policy committee(s), and if it has a fiscal impact is then heard in the Appropriations Committee in the house of origin (either Assembly or Senate). If a bill passes those committees, it is next voted upon by all members of that house (the "floor vote"). If the bill passes a floor vote in the house of origin, it then goes to the other house and begins the process all over again (policy committee(s), Appropriations Committee, and floor vote). At any of these points, the bill may be changed or "amended." If the bill is amended in the second house, it must return for a second vote on the floor of the house of origin (the "concurrence vote").

Once a bill passes both houses of the Legislature (and, if necessary, passes a concurrence vote in the house of origin), the Governor may sign it into law, veto it, or take no action within the constitutionally-prescribed time limit, thereby allowing it to become law without his/her signature. The only change a Governor may make in a bill, without sending it back to the Legislature, is to reduce or eliminate the money allocated in the bill.



- Only if the house of origin does not concur in second house amendments
- Returns to both houses for approval



- · Sign, veto or become law without signature
- May reduce or eliminate funding

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

What do California's prisoners and abused and neglected children have in common?

- Neither have political power in the Legislature.
- · Both are the subject of an unprecedented public policy experiment.

The experiment is called "realignment," a Governor-initiated policy that devolves the responsibility for funding child welfare services and prisons to California's variegated smorgasbord of fifty-eight counties — some of which are tiny and insular, and some of which are larger and more populous than many states.

Notwithstanding the federal government looking to the State of California to ensure that its billions of federal tax dollars are sensibly and lawfully spent, under child welfare realignment, the State has effectively ended any of the State's General Fund money for child welfare and the leverage and accountability that relationship implies. Instead, the State funnels federal money to the counties and assures the counties programmatic flexibility in the implementation of child welfare programs.

Here is the thing about realignment: it was financially implemented before it was programmatically flushed out. Many of the actual operational details are still unaddressed or are being addressed, after-the-fact.

This benign-sounding organizational phrase will either come to mean "sensible delegation" or "wholesale abandonment" depending upon whether the State will muscularly ensure the counties act consistently and rationally, with an eye toward ensuring a minimum baseline of care regardless of whether a child is abused in Butte, Inyo, or San Diego County.

Here is the other thing about child welfare realignment: There is not one reason whatsoever to believe the State will do this. Even when the State was actually paying for some of child welfare, it remained largely passive as report after report documented California children needlessly dying – sometimes via torture – with some of the blame being directed toward county bureaucracies gone amuck. Local elected officials wailed, grand juries issued scathing verdicts, editorial boards called for action....and the State — at best — shook its head and did nothing dramatic, nothing proportional to the tragedy of children needlessly dying.

Think we are exaggerating? Take two examples. Outside news reports and audits excoriated the child welfare system in Los Angeles County, the State's largest, which has seen more frequent turnover at the top of that agency than a teenager switches favorite bands. As the *Los Angeles Times* wrote in February of 2013 about an internal L.A. County review done in 2012, a "stifling bureaucracy" was impeding effective child welfare:

"Investigations tend to rely on bureaucratic rules, not common sense and close observation, the report found. The department has issued more than 4,000 pages of policies detailing how social workers should do their jobs

'Creating social work road maps with this level of 'how-to' is like expecting a therapist to use a script that tells her what questions to ask and what responses to expect from her client in a therapy session," the report said.

Lowell Goodman, a spokesman for the union representing the social workers, said, 'Even the finest social workers in the country could not perform their best work in this system.'

'Paperwork and the relentless attention to following [thousands of pages of] policies supersedes hands-on social work in importance,' he said."

An audit by the California Bureau of State Audits years before found similar problems and has noted that the County has not addressed them.²

Likewise, in response to news stories in Los Angeles County about CPS performance, SEIU Local 721 in 2011 authored an exhaustive and detailed set of recommendations for improving and streamlining operations and enhancing social worker productivity. Most of the suggestions could be implemented within existing resources. Suggestions included how to eliminate duplicative paperwork, improve coordination between departments and employees, and shift staffing to ensure greater productivity and job satisfaction.

But, these suggestions have been largely ignored, as the State has done nothing worth noting. No robust substantive intervention. No promises to ensure the County's paperwork traffic pile up isn't hurting children. Silence.

Here is another example. Sacramento County hired an outside consultant to review its operations after a spate of grisly child deaths were reported in the *Sacramento Bee*. In its final report issued in 2009, the consultant identified a large number of bureaucratic impediments to social worker effectiveness that imperiled the lives of children. For example, the Sacramento County report found:

"The County's guidelines for its social workers contain 167 policies spanning more than 1,300 pages. Over 60 percent of these guidelines were last created or updated more than five years ago. CPS's existing guidelines include a mix of outdated or conflicting guidance, caused, for example, when the division created a new guideline without revoking or amending a prior guideline document related to the same procedure."

¹ Jason Song and Garrett Therolf, 'Blind leading blind' at county child services; A scathing report faults the agency in more than a dozen deaths. New director has begun changes, LOS ANGELES TIMES (Feb. 14, 2013) at A-1.

²The Bureau of State Audits report can be found at https://www.bsa.ca.gov/reports/summary/2011-101.2 and the mixed record of the County in complying with the Audit's recommendations can be found at https://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/sr2013/2011-101.2.pdf. The County's "Recurring Systemic Issues" internal report prepared by outside counsel can be found at https://documents.latimes.com/report-severe-problems-los-angeles-county-department-children-and-family-services/.

"The current CPS requirements and operating structure hamper its ability to provide child welfare services effectively and efficiently. Moreover, inconsistent procedures and failure to follow best practices have resulted in negative outcomes for some children in the County's child welfare system. Utilizing poor practices has also resulted in families and children not receiving the best services to meet their needs. Consequently, the issues within these families that brought them into the child welfare system in the first place may continue to be unaddressed, leaving children at risk. Improving CPS operations and processes is imperative if the County is to address these issues and optimize its service delivery to families and children in the future." ³

And in response to these reports of basic failures of counties, the State did nothing. Still, the reports of horrible lapses at the County that houses our Capitol and government keep coming.

Worse, all of these county-level failings took place during the world **prior to realignment,** when the State had the power of the purse to influence policy. Now, while the federal government continues to look to the State as the one throat to choke when it comes to ensuring its Title IV-E money is well spent, the State has less of a central role in guiding child welfare policy than perhaps ever before.

Two things are clear. First, not until both the State and federal governments get serious about monitoring how federal tax dollars are spent will California's abused and neglected children obtain the level of care and services they deserve.

Second, if the State's role is now one primarily of holding the counties accountable, it needs to stop trying to stifle the press and the public's efforts to unearth and publicize problems in the delivery and administration of county child welfare services. Instead of promulgating and defending (at significant cost) miserly and unlawful regulations that seek to frustrate the ability of the press and the public to find out what happened when a child dies on the county's watch — as is currently the case — the State must embrace an entirely new, watchdog and advocate posture. This isn't the same as micro-managing ways and means. But it does mean insisting on answers when things go bad in our counties, insisting on remedies on specific accountable timetables to ensure preventable child deaths do not reoccur, being unafraid to rely on the press and the public as watchdog partners, and taking first-person responsibility for ensuring things get fixed if they are broken.

If the State does not do these things, the Governor and the Legislature will have stained themselves by enacting an untested policy that treats California's children in a way that if they were parents, would shock the conscience, constitute abuse and neglect, and result in their children being removed from their care.

³ The report can be found at http://www.news10.net/news/pdf/cps-report-032609.pdf.

2012 SUBJECTS GRADED

CHILD WELFARE / CHILD PROTECTION / FOSTER CARE / JUVENILE COURT

AB 1434 (Feuer) makes employees and administrators of a public or private postsecondary institution whose duties involve contact with children on a regular basis, as to child abuse or neglect occurring on that institution's premises, or at an official activity of, or program conducted by the institution, mandated reporters for the purpose of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 24, 2012 (Chapter 519, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1435 (Dickinson) makes athletic coaches, athletic administrators, and athletic directors employed by any public or private school that provides any combination of instruction for kindergarten, or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, mandated reporters for the purposes of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 24, 2012 (Chapter 520, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1573 (Brownley) clarifies that a student who is a foster child who remains in his/her school of origin, as determined and defined pursuant to existing law, has met the residency requirements for attendance purposes. This bill was signed by the Governor on July 13, 2012 (Chapter 93, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1713 (Campos) makes "image processors" mandated reporters under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) and expands the list of media subject to CANRA provisions. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 24, 2012 (Chapter 517, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1751 (Pan) requires that county child welfare agencies and county probation departments be given access to specified child support information related to the noncustodial parents of children who are subject to juvenile court proceedings. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 27, 2012 (Chapter 637, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1817 (Atkins) makes commercial computer technicians mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect for the purpose of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 24, 2012 (Chapter 521, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1856 (Ammiano) requires foster care providers to receive instruction on cultural competency and sensitivity with respect to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth in out-of-home care. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 27, 2012 (Chapter 639, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1909 (Ammiano) requires notification of a foster child's attorney and social worker (or appropriate welfare representative), in addition to parental or guardian notification, in specified situations where the foster child faces possible suspension or expulsion from school. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2012 (Chapter 849, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1928 (Cook) clarifies existing law regarding the conditions under which the number of foster children residing in a specialized foster care home may be increased from two to three, and clarifies existing residential capacity requirements for small family homes operating as specialized foster homes. This bill was signed by the Governor on July 13, 2012 (Chapter 120, Statutes of 2012).

AB 2019 (Hill) establishes requirements regarding the Foster Family Home and Small Family Home Insurance Fund, such as requiring DSS or designated agency to notify a claimant of the decision to approve or reject a claim within 15 days of the decision. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 27, 2012 (Chapter 642, Statutes of 2012).

AB 2060 (Bonilla) enhances the appointment and duties of a responsible adult authorized to make educational decisions for a child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court by, among other things, requiring the court, at an initial petition hearing and when a child is adjudicated a dependent or a ward of the court, where the court limits a parent's educational rights, to determine whether there is a responsible adult, who is a relative, non-relative extended family member or other adult known to the child and who is willing and able to serve as the child's educational representative, before appointing an educational representative or surrogate who is not known to the child, and providing that, if an educational representative or surrogate is appointed for the child, the representative or surrogate must meet with the child, investigate the child's educational needs and whether those needs are being met, and, prior to each review hearing, provide information and recommendations concerning the child's educational needs to the social worker or, for a ward, the probation officer, make written recommendations to the court and participate in those portions of the review hearing that concern the child's education. This bill was signed by the Governor on August 17, 2012 (Chapter 176, Statutes of 2012)

AB 2292 (Nielsen) requires that at a review or permanency hearing for a dependent child or a delinquent child in the foster care system, the juvenile court must consider the admissible and relevant evidence when determining whether to return the child to his or her parents or guardian or retain the child in foster care. This bill was signed by the Governor on August 27, 2012 (Chapter 208, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1091 (Pavley) adds specified crimes relating to human trafficking, pandering, procurement, prostitution, aggravated sexual assault against a child and child pornography to the crimes for which a prosecuting witness may have up to two support persons while testifying. This bill was signed by the Governor on July 17, 2012 (Chapter 148, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1264 (Vargas) adds any "athletic coach, including, but not limited to, an assistant coach or a graduate assistant involved in coaching, at public or private postsecondary institutions," to the list of mandated child abuse and neglect reporters. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 24, 2012 (Chapter 518, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1425 (Negrete McLeod) prohibits a court from modifying a denial of reunification services, or changing a custody or visitation order, for parents whose children were placed in foster care as the result of extreme physical abuse, sexual abuse, or because the parent caused the death of another child, as specified, unless the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that the proposed change is in the best interest of the child. This bill was signed by the Governor on August 17, 2012 (Chapter 179, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1521 (Liu), among other things, prohibits reunifications services to a parent or guardian who has been required to register as a sex offender as specified, and requires county welfare agencies to annually request a free consumer credit report for a foster youth when she/he turns 16 and for each year thereafter and requires the agency to refer a foster youth to credit counseling and assistance services, as specified. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2012 (Chapter 847, Statutes of 2012).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

AB 1451 (Hayashi) adds new requirements to the California High School Coaching Education and Training Program for training on understanding the signs and symptoms of concussions and the appropriate response to concussions. This bill was signed by the Governor on August 17, 2012 (Chapter 173, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1452 (Hill) requires hospitals, clinics, and birthing centers, when discharging a child under 8 years of age, to give the parent or the person to whom the child is released specific contact information for organizations that provide assistance with the use, law, and installation of child passenger restraint systems. This bill was signed by the Governor on August 27, 2012 (Chapter 185, Statutes of 2012).

AB 2109 (Pan) requires on and after January 1, 2014, a separate form prescribed by the Department of Public Health to accompany a letter or affidavit to exempt a child from immunization requirements under existing law on the basis that an immunization is contrary to beliefs of the child's parent or guardian. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2012 (Chapter 821, Statutes of 2012).

AB 2333 (Solorio) would have specified that any person who keeps a BB device within any premises that is under the person's custody or control, who knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to gain access to that BB device without the permission of the minor's parent or legal guardian, and a minor obtains access to that BB device and thereafter carries the BB device off-premises and openly displays or exposes the BB device in a public place in violation of provisions of existing law, may be subject to a written warning for the first instance, a civil fine of \$100 for the second instance, and a civil fine of for the third or subsequent instance. This bill was vetoed by the Governor on September 28, 2012.

SB 970 (DeLeon) would have authorized, upon consent of the applicant, information provided for the single state application for health subsidy programs to be used to initiate a simultaneous application for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids or the CalFresh programs. The Governor vetoed this bill on September 30, 2012.

CHILD CARE / CHILD DEVELOPMENT

AB 1673 (Mitchell) would have streamlined eligibility and provided stable and consistent child care services by extending eligibility for child care services to 12 months once initial eligibility is determined for all child care and development programs administered by the California Department of Education under the Child Care and Development Services Act, unless the child no longer resides in the state or the child is deceased. This bill died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

EDUCATION

AB 1575 (Lara) codifies the constitutional prohibition on the imposition of pupil fees and establishes procedures to ensure compliance with that prohibition. Among other things, the bill statutorily prohibits all local educational agencies from imposing pupil fees (defined to include a fee charged as a condition for registering for or participating in a school or class or extracurricular activity that is an integral part of elementary and secondary education, and/or a security deposit or other payment to obtain or purchase a lock, locker, class apparatus, musical instrument, uniform, or other materials or equipment), and clarifies that this bill does not prohibit solicitation of voluntary donations of funds or property, voluntary participation in fundraising activities, or school districts, schools, and other entities from providing pupils prizes or other recognition for voluntarily participating in fundraising activities. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 29, 2012 (Chapter 776, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1729 (Ammiano) requires that all forms of suspension be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct; authorizes the use and documentation of alternatives to suspension or expulsion that are age appropriate and designed to address a pupil's specific misbehavior; and, defines other means of correction. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 21, 2012 (Chapter 425, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1732 (Campos) specifies that bullying via an electronic act using a post on a social network Internet Web site includes (1) posting to or creating a burn page, as defined; (2) creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more effects of bullying specified under existing law; and (3) creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more effects of bullying specified under existing law. This bill was signed by the Governor on July 23, 2012 (Chapter 157, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1799 (Bradford) requires that, when a pupil transfers from one school to another within the state, the pupil's records be transferred from the prior school to the new school within 10 schooldays following the date the request was received by the prior school. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 19, 2012 (Chapter 369, Statutes of 2012).

AB 2296 (Block), among other things, requires institutions regulated by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) to provide additional disclosures to prospective students; expands the information to be provided to students and in the institution's Enrollment Agreement, school catalog, and Student Performance Fact Sheet; deletes the condition that an institution makes an express or implied claim of potential earnings after completing the program to trigger the requirement that they report salary and wage information; expands the authority of the Bureau to collect any information from an institution for purposes of reporting job placement and license exam passage rates, salary information, and cohort default rates, and ensure by regulation that the information is collected and reported if the Bureau determines the information is useful to students, based upon the most credible and verifiable available data, and does not impose undue compliance burdens on an institution; revises the definition of "graduates employed the field"; specifies that the Bureau shall define, by July 1, 2014, specific measures and standards for determining whether a student is gainfully employed in a full-time or part-time position for which the institution represents the program prepares its graduates, including self-employment or conducting freelance work and may set the standards for the hours per week and duration of employment and utilize any job classification methodology the Bureau determines appropriate for this purpose; and requires, if applicable, that the most recent official three-year cohort default rate reported by the U.S. Department of Education for the institution and the percentage of enrolled students receiving federal student loans be provided by an institution as part of its annual report to the Bureau. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 26, 2012 (Chapter 525, Statutes of 2012).

AB 2537 (V. Perez) revises provisions on expulsion by, for example, authorizing a principal or superintendent to not recommend expulsion if he or she determines that expulsion should not be recommended under the circumstances or that an alternative means of correction would address the conduct. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 21, 2012 (Chapter 431, Statutes of 2012).

AB 2616 (Carter) makes several changes to provisions governing truancy, such as specifying that for purposes of the truancy provisions, a valid excuse includes, but is not limited to, the reasons for which a pupil shall be excused from school, and may include other reasons that are within the discretion of school administrators and, based on the facts of the pupil's circumstances, are deemed to constitute a valid excuse; revising the provisions governing the first and second time a truancy report is issued; authorizes, rather than requires, that upon a fourth time a truancy is issued within the same school year, the pupil to be referred to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court that may adjudge the pupil to be a ward of the court; and lowers a fine associated with a fourth truancy, if the pupil is adjudged a ward of the court, from \$100 to \$50, for which a parent or legal guardian of the pupil may be jointly liable. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 21, 2012 (Chapter 432, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1088 (Price) specifies that a pupil shall not be denied enrollment or readmission to a public school solely on the basis that he/she had been arrested, adjudicated by a juvenile court, had been formally or informally supervised by a probation officer, or was detained for any length of time in a juvenile facility or was enrolled in a juvenile court school. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 19, 2012 (Chapter 381, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1103 (Wright) requires the California Student Aid Commission to post annual reports submitted by institutions participating in the Cal Grant program and other information useful to students and parents. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 7, 2012 (Chapter 273, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1235 (Steinberg) would have encouraged schools to implement evidence-based and other schoolwide strategies for the purpose of reducing the suspension rate if the number of pupils suspended out of the school's enrollment or any numerically significant pupil subgroup is above a specified threshold, and would have required the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Education to provide training and technical assistance on the implementation of evidence-based schoolwide strategies to address school climate. This bill was vetoed by the Governor on September 26, 2012.

SB 1289 (Corbett) requires a public, private, or independent postsecondary educational institution, except the California Community Colleges, to make specified disclosures related to private student loans in financial aid material and private loan applications provided or made available by the institution, to distinguish private loans from federal loans in individual financial aid awards, and, if the institution provides a private loan lender list, to provide general information about the loans available through the lender and disclose the basis for each lender's inclusion on the list. The bill authorizes and requests the California Community Colleges to comply with these provisions, and applies to the University of California only to the extent that the Regents of the University of California act, by resolution, to make it applicable. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 27, 2012 (Chapter 623, Statutes of 2012).

TRANSITION AGE FOSTER YOUTH

AB 1712 (Beall) makes various changes to AB 12 (Beall) (Chapter 559, Statutes of 2010), such as making nonminor dependents or youth participating in AB 12 eligible for the CASA program; authorizes the caregiver of the nonminor dependent to attend the hearings and to submit relevant written information for filing and distribution to the parties; clarifying provisions relating to youth and competency regarding participation in AB 12; and clarifying the definition of the county of residence of a nonminor dependent. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2012 (Chapter 846, Statutes of 2012).

SEXUALLY EXPLOITED MINORS (SEM) / TRAFFICKED YOUTH

AB 1899 (Mitchell) grants students who are noncitizen victims of trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes, as defined under specified federal law, the same exemption from nonresident tuition and eligibility to apply for and participate in state and institutional financial aid programs at the California State University and the California Community Colleges as that extended to students granted refugee status, and requests the University of California to adopt similar policies. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 24, 2012 (Chapter 509, Statutes of 2012).

AB 1956 (Portantino) expands the California Voluntary Tattoo Removal Program to serve individuals, between 14 and 24 years of age, who were tattooed for identification in human trafficking or prostitution and are in the custody of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or county probation departments, who are on parole or probation, or who are in a community-based organization serving at-risk youth. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 29, 2012 (Chapter 746, Statutes of 2012).

AB 2040 (Swanson) provides that an adult who was previously adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court because he or she committed a prostitution offense may petition the court to seal the records of the offense, regardless of the person's criminal record or proof of rehabilitation; and provides that this relief shall not be available if the person exchanged, or offered to exchange, anything of value in the prostitution offense. This bill was signed by the Governor on August 27, 2012 (Chapter 197, Statutes of 2012).

JUVENILE JUSTICE

AB 1707 (Ammiano) removes non-reoffending minors from the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) after 10 years and amends the CACI notice provisions. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2012 (Chapter 848, Statutes of 2012).

SB 988 (Liu) sought to establish a minimum level of training and education for counsel in juvenile delinquency proceedings by requiring the Judicial Council, on or before January 1, 2014, to adopt rules of court regarding the qualifications of appointed counsel in such proceedings, as specified. This bill died in the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

SB 1048 (Liu) authorizes the juvenile court to join in a delinquency juvenile court proceeding in which the court has determined that a governmental agency, private service provider, or individual has failed to meet his or her legal obligation to provide services to a minor who is within the jurisdiction of the court. This bill was signed by the Governor on July 13, 2012 (Chapter 130, Statutes of 2012).

FAMILY LAW

AB 1757 (Fletcher) makes several changes to adoption and guardianship processes, such as allowing, in a stepparent adoption, a licensed clinical social worker or marriage and family therapist who is performing the investigation for the stepparent adoption to also help identify the child's natural father; clarifying the timelines for setting initial hearings and contested trials in cases involving termination of parental rights of presumed fathers and mothers by requiring that a proceeding to declare a child free from parental custody and control be set for hearing not more than 45 days after filing of the petition, and allowing a court to issue an order based on the pleading if no interested person contests the petition; in a probate guardianship proceeding, requiring the court

investigator, unless waived by the court, to investigate every proposed guardianship and report recommendations to the court; and allowing the court to refer any case of possible child abuse or neglect to the child welfare agency. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 27, 2012 (Chapter 638, Statutes of 2012).

AB 2365 (Nestande) requires a court when making a child custody determination to consider either parent's habitual or continual abuse of prescribed controlled substances and removes the sunset on drug testing. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 7, 2012 (Chapter 258, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1064 (DeLeon) provides family and custodial protections for children of immigrant families. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2012 (Chapter 835, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1206 (Walters) prohibits parents in a dissolution proceeding from applying for a passport or replacement passport for the minor child or children without prior written consent from the other parent or a court order, and allows a court to order the freezing of certain assets when it issues a protective custody warrant for a child. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 7, 2012 (Chapter 276, Statutes of 2012).

SB 1476 (Leno) would have permitted a court, in appropriate cases, to find that a child has more than two legal parents. This bill was vetoed by the Governor on September 30, 2012.

How Legislators Were Graded METHODOLOGY

All the bills included in this *Report Card* would improve current law for children. An "AYE" vote on these measures represents a vote for children and is indicated by a " \star ."

Legislators are elected to do many important things but far and away the most important is the simplest: vote on bills. This is reflected in the very way our system is constituted. In our system, when a legislator is absent, the required vote threshold to enact legislation does not go down; a majority of all of those eligible to vote is needed to enact legislation. Thus, a failure to vote on a measure (even because of an absence that has been permitted by legislative leadership) has the identical effect of a "no" vote. Thus, on our Report Card grid, the first percentage column reflects the raw, unadjusted grade of members when it comes to voting on all of the selected bills.

On the other hand, when, as here, we are seeking to hold elected officials publicly accountable for their comparative commitment to children through the process of issuing a Report Card, it is important that the mechanics of this effort not result in portraits of legislators we know subjectively to be erroneous. Moreover, not all votes in reality are do-or-die for the passage of a bill. Sometimes the critical vote is in committee, and not at the floor vote stage. Sometimes the floor vote is not close and a member knows a bill will pass without his/her vote and can take care of personal or other business without imperiling the fate of the bill.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge — even stress — that elected officials do not place their personal lives into a blind trust when elected. Sometimes members have personal travails that amply warrant their absence. These range from the deaths of parents, spouses and children, to childbirth and other critical child-rearing issues, illnesses, or addressing true personal emergencies.

At the federal level, this problem has been resolved with a "courtesy pairing," where a member of Congress who would vote "aye" on a bill does not vote "aye" to provide a constructive "no" vote for a colleague who would vote "no" but cannot be present. At the state level, "excused absences" partially reflect what appears to be a legitimate personal reason for not voting.

As noted above, the final votes and the obligation to vote remain prime concerns of those who will be bound by the work product of these officials. But the second percentage column of our grid reflects each legislator's "aye" vote percentage excluding excused absences where the vote was not close (*i.e.*, the bill passed with a margin of at least 5 votes in the Senate and 10 votes in the Assembly). This percentage is provided to the extent the reader feels the personal factors noted above properly influence a judgment on the performance of legislators.

The 2012 *Children's Legislative Report Card* evaluates final floor votes on selected bills affecting children. When bills were amended in the second house, the concurrence vote in the house of origin was used to compute those legislators' scores, so that comparing Senate and Assembly votes on the same bills will reflect votes on the same version of the bill. Exception: where a bill was held in the suspense file of the house of origin, legislators in that house receive the equivalent of a "NO" vote for failing to pull the pull from suspense for a public vote; legislators in the other house are not graded on that bill. This *Report Card* includes one bill that was held in suspense in the Assembly (AB 1673), and one bill that was held in suspense in the Senate (SB 998 (Liu)). We include these bills to symbolize all of the worthy child-related measures that were not given priority status by legislators.

Legislators' overall scores indicate the percentage of affirmatively cast votes for children on the legislation presented. Votes and attendance were tallied from the Assembly and Senate Daily Journals and the Legislative Counsel's website (www.leginfo.ca.gov).

★ = A VOTE FOR CHILDREN (an "AYE" vote)

[:] Legislator recorded a "YES" vote : Legislator recorded a "NO" vote <> : Bill was killed in chamber's Appropriations suspense file without a public vote

[:] Legislator was present on day of vote but did not record a vote on this bill

Legislator had an excused absence on day of vote

_^ : Legislative had an unexcused absence on day of vote

EDUCATION	AB 1575	1729	AB 1732	AB 1799	2006	AB 2537	/207	2616	1088	1103	1235	1289	>	AB 1712	JUVENILE JUSTICE	AB 1707	886	SB 1048	FAMILY LAW	AB 1757	2365	SB 1064	1206	1476	"AYE" Votes for	Raw "AYE"	Modified "AYE"	
EDI	AB	ΑB	AB	AB	2	2	Ą	AB	SB	SB	SB	SB	TAFY	AB	Ę	AB	SB	SB	FAN	AB	AB	SB	SB	SB		Vote % ¹	Vote % ²	Legislator
	*	*	*	*	*	*	•	*	*	*	*	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	*	43	98%	98%	Alquist
	_	_	*	*	_	_		*	*	*	_	_		*		★ _**	<>	*		*	*	_	*	_	30	68%	70%	Anderson
	_*	_ _*	×	_*	_*	_		* -*	* _*	×	_	-		*		- ★	<>	*		*	×	*	*	_	32 28	73% 64%	73% 80%	Berryhill Blakeslee
	*	_ ★	*	*	*	_ *		*	_ ★	*	*	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	*	42	95%	95%	Calderon
	_	_	*	*	-	_		*	*	_*	_	_		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	_	31	70%	72%	Cannella
	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*		-**	<>	*		*	*	*	*	*	41	93%	93%	Corbett
	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*		-**		*		*	*	*	*	*	41	93%	93%	Correa
	_*	_*	*	_*	_*	*	-	_* .	_*	*	*	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	★ _**	*	*	30	68%	94%	de Leon
	*	*	*	*	*	*		★	*	*	*	*		*		*		★ _**		*	*	_^^	*	*	41 31	93% 70%	93% 70%	DeSaulnier Dutton
		_** .	_*	*		_		^ ★	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	_	_		<u>*</u>		*	<>	*		^	*	^	^ *	_	30	68%	71%	Emmerson
	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	- **	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	*	42	95%	95%	Evans
	_	-	*	*	_	_		*	*	*	-	-		*		_	<>	*		*	*	-	*	_	29	66%	66%	Fuller
	-	-	*	*	-	-	•	*	*	*	-	-		*		-	<>	*		*	*	-	*	-	29	66%	66%	Gaines
	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		_**		*		_**		*	_*	_**	★ _**	_**		59%	74%	Hancock
	- ^^	-	*	-^^	_	_^ _		-^^ · →		*	-	_^^		* *		-** ★	<> <>	*		_^ ★	*	*	_^^ ★	- ★	24 38	55% 86%	56% 86%	Harman Hernandez
	_	_	*	*	_	_	,	<u>^</u>	*	*	_	_		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	_	33	75%	75%	Huff
	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	_**	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	_**	*	*	39	89%	89%	Kehoe
	_	-	*	*	-	-		*	*	*	_	-		*		_	<>	*		*	*	-	*	-	29	66%	66%	La Malfa
	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	*	43	98%	98%	Leno
	*	*	*	*	*	_*		*	*	*	*	_*		_*		_*	<>	*		*	*	_*		_*	28	64%	93%	Lieu
	*	*	*	*	*	×	. ,	★ →	*	*	*	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	*	41 43	93% 98%	95% 98%	Liu Lowenthal
	*	*	*	*	*	· *		× ★	*	*	*	*		*		*		_*		*	_**	*	*	*	38	86%	90%	Negrete McLeod
	*	*	*	*	*	*	. ,	*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	43	98%	98%	Padilla
	*	_**	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	_**	*		_*		_*	<>	*		*	*	_*	*	_*	31	70%	89%	Pavley
	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	*	43	98%	98%	Price
	_**	_**	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		★ _*		-** -*		★ _*		**	**	*	**	-** *		86%	86%	Rubio
	*	_	—¨ ★	×	-	_ ★		× ★	×	—" •	-" +	-		<u>-</u> "		_**		—" ★		- ***	- *	_¨ ★	- *	-¨ ★	9 41	20% 93%	38% 93%	Runner Simitian
	*	★	*	*	*	· *	. ,	^ ★	*	*	*	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	*	43	98%	98%	Steinberg
	_	_	*	*	_	_		*	*	*	_	_		*		*	<>	*		_**	*	*	*	_	32	73%	73%	Strickland
	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	*	43	98%	98%	Vargas
	_	-	*	*	_	_		*	*	*	-	_		*		*	<>	*		*	*	*	*	_	31	70%	70%	Walters
	*	* *	*	*	* *			★ ★	*	*	*	*		*		*	<> <>	*		*	*	*	*	*	40 42	91%	91%	Wolk Wright
	_	_	*	*	_	* *		× ★	*	★ _*	_	_		_*		_*	<>			*		★ _*		_* _*	23	95% 52%	95% 70%	Wyland
	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*		*	<>			*		_**		*	42	95%	95%	Yee
	-	-	*	*					*		-	-		*		*		*		*	*	*	*		32	73%	73%	Achadjian
	*		*			*		*	*	*	*	*		*		_**		*		*	*		*		42	95%	95%	Alejo
	*	* *	* *	*	*			★ ★	* *	*	* *	*		*		*		*		*	★ _**	*	★ _**	*	42 41	95% 93%	95% 93%	Allen Ammiano
	*	*	*	*	*			^ ★	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	★	*	★	*	43	98%	98%	Atkins
	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	43	98%	98%	Beall
	-	-	*	*	-	-	•	* .	_**	*	-	-		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	-	30	68%	68%	Berryhill
	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	43	98%	98%	Block
	*	*	*	*	*			* -	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	★ _**			*	43	98%	98%	Blumenfield
	*	*	*	*	*		_	★ _**	* *	*	*	*		*		*		*		*		★	*	*	41 39	93% 89%	93% 89%	Bonilla Bradford
	★		<u>*</u>	*	_^ ★			- ★	<u>*</u>	*	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>		^ *		-		<u>*</u>		·^	*	_ ★		<u>*</u>	43	98%	98%	Brownley
	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	43	98%	98%	Buchanan
	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	42	95%	98%	Butler
	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	38	86%	88%	Calderon
	*		*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*			_** _	*	*	*	42	95%	95%	Campos
	*		*	*	*			★ ★	* *	*	*	*		* *		* *		*		* *	★ _**	*	*	*	43 39	98% 89%	98% 95%	Carter Cedillo
	*					· *			*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	41	93%	95%	Chesbro
													divid		0 0111		of ove		o by						displayed, only			

^{1 :} The raw aye vote percentage is calculated by dividing the number of aye votes by 44. Although 45 bills are displayed, only 44 bills are applicable to each legislator (SB 988 only counts toward Senators' grades, and AB 1673 only counts toward Assemblymembers' grades).

^{2 :} The modified aye vote percentage is calculated by dividing the number of aye votes by the number of votes that took place on days when the legislator did not have an excused absence; see Methodology for more information.

^{★ :} Legislator recorded a "YES" vote

Legislator recorded a "NO" vote

[:] Bill was killed in chamber's Appropriations suspense file without a public vote —** : Legislator was present on day of vote but did not record a vote on this bill

^{-* :} Legislator had an excused absence on day of vote

_^ : Legislative had an unexcused absence on day of vote

* * * * * * * * * * - * * - * * - * * - * * - * * - * * * - * * * - * * * - * * * - * * * - *	EDUCATION	AB 1575	AB 1729	AB 1732	AB 1799	AB 2296	AB 2537	AB 2616	SB 1088	SB 1103	SB 1235	SB 1289	ТАБҮ	AB 1712	JUVENILE JUSTICE	AB 1707	SB 988	SB 1048	FAMILY LAW	AB 1757	AB 2365	SB 1064	SB 1206	SB 1476	"AYE" Votes for Kids	Raw "AYE" Vote % ¹	Modified "AYE" Vote %2	Legislator
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_	_	*	*	_	Ξ	*	*	*	=	-						_			*			Ξ				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		-	_	*	*	_	_	*	*	*	-	-						_			*			_				
** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*							_		*	*	*						
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		×	*	**	×	×	*	×	×	×	*	*						_		_**	×	×		×				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*						*	*	*		*				
+ * * * - * * * * - * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				*		*		*	*	*	*	*	-			
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_	_	*	*	*	_	*	*	*	_	-**		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	- **				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						_		*	*	*	*	*				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	_						_							-			
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						_			*	*		*				
* *		_	_	*	*	_	-**	*	*	*	-**	_						_			*	_		_				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_	_	×	×	_	_	×	×	×	_	×						_		×	×	_		_				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	^	^	*	*	^	*	*	*	*						_		^	^	*		*				
		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*									*	*							
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * - 30 68% 68% Hagman * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_**	_	*	*	_	_	*	*	*	*	- 1				*		*		*	*	*	*	_				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_	_	*	*	_	_	*	*	*	_	-		*		_		*		*	*	-**	*	_	28	64%	64%	Grove
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_	-	*	*	-	_	*	*	*	_	-						*		*	*	*	*	-	30			
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		-	-	*	*	-	-	*	*	*	-	-						_			*			-				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	_**						_			*			*				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_	_	*	*	_	_	*	*	*	_	_						_			*			_				,
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		×	*	×	* +	*	*	*	_*	×								_			×							
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*							_			*	^						
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*																	
* *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*				
* *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*				
* *		-	-	*	*	_	-	*	*	*	_	-						_		*	*			_				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		-	-	*	*	-	-	*	*	*	-	-						_		*	*	-**	-	-	-			
* *		_	_	*	*	_	_	*	*	**	_	_						_		*	*	_						
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	×	×	*	*	×	×	_	*	*						_		×	×	*						
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						_		*	*	*						-
**		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				*		_		*	*	*	*	*				
* *		_	_	_**	*	-	-	*	*	*	_	-		*		-		*		*	*	_**	*	-	26		59%	Mansoor
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*			*	*	42	95%	95%	Mendoza
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		-	-		*	-	-	*	*	*	-	-						_		*	*	_**						
* * * * - * - *		*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	_						_		*	_**	*						
- *		*	*			*			*		*	_						_										•
* *		_	*			_			*		_							_										
- * * * - * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_	_							-	_							_										
* *		-	*		*	-				*		-						_		*	-							
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		-	_	*	*	_		*	*	*		- 1								*	*	*						Olsen
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*		*				*	*								_										
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *												_						_										
* - * * *** * * * * * * * * * * - *												_						_										,
* *			*									_						_										
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_	_			_					_	_						_										
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * - 29 66% 66% Smyth * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*			*					*	_						_										
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		-	-	*	*							_						_		*	*	*						
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*				*		*		*			43		98%	Solorio
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * - 28 64% 70% Valadao * * * * * * - * - * - * - *			*									_																
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★		*	*			*												_										
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		_	_			_						_						_										
		*	*			-				*		_						_										
		*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*		*		*		*		*	*				41	93%	93%	Williams
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *																		_										

^{1 :} The raw aye vote percentage is calculated by dividing the number of aye votes by 44. Although 45 bills are displayed, only 44 bills are applicable to each legislator (SB 988 only counts toward Senators' grades, and AB 1673 only counts toward Assemblymembers' grades).

^{2 :} The modified aye vote percentage is calculated by dividing the number of aye votes by the number of votes that took place on days when the legislator did not have an excused absence; see Methodology for more information.



Children's Advocacy Institute

Locations

San Diego

University of San Diego School of Law 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110 (619) 260-4806 / Fax: (619) 260-4753

Sacramento

800 J Street, Suite 504 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 844-5646

Washington, D.C.

1000 Vermont Ave. NW Suite 700 Washington DC, 20005 (917) 371-5191

Email: info@caichildlaw.org / Website: www.caichildlaw.org

CAI Staff

Robert C. Fellmeth Executive Director

Elisa Weichel Administrative Director/Staff Attorney

Ed Howard Senior Counsel

Christina Riehl Senior Staff Attorney

Melanie Delgado Staff Attorney

Amy Harfeld National Policy Director / Senior Staff Attorney

Mercedes Lanznaster Executive Assistant

The Children's Advocacy Institute is part of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego School of Law.

© 2013 by the Children's Advocacy Institute



Children's Advocacy Institute 5998 Alcalá Park San Diego, CA 92110-2492