

Date of Hearing: April 30, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Al Muratsuchi, Chair  
AB 563 (Jackson) – As Amended April 10, 2025

**[Note: This bill was double referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee and was heard by that Committee as it relates to issues under its jurisdiction.]**

**SUBJECT:** Childcare: Early Childhood Policy Council

**SUMMARY:** Requires the Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC) to submit a report to the Legislature on an annual basis that includes the successes, challenges, and gaps in the state’s early childhood education systems and recommendations to facilitate advancing the state’s vision; also requires the ECPC to develop policy proposals and budget requests related to facility and workforce needs as well as family access. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the ECPC to submit a report to the Legislature, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the Assembly Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Human Services, on an annual basis that includes at a minimum, the successes, challenges, and gaps in the state’s early childhood education systems and recommendations to facilitate advancing the state’s vision for children, families, and communities.
- 2) Requires the ECPC to develop policy proposals and budget requests for the Legislature to consider related to facility needs, workforce needs, and family access.
- 3) Requires the report to be submitted to the Legislature be in compliance with Government Code requirements regarding legislative reports.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the Child Care and Development Services Act to provide childcare and development services as part of a comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective system serving children from birth to 13 years of age and their parents, including a full range of supervision, health, and support services through full- and part-time programs. (Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 10207)
- 2) Defines “childcare and development services” to mean services designed to meet a wide variety of children’s and families’ needs while parents and guardians are working, in training, seeking employment, incapacitated, or in need of respite and states that these services may include direct care supervision, instructional activities, resource and referral (R&R), and alternative payment (AP) arrangements. (WIC 10213.5(j))
- 3) Establishes the Early Education Act to provide high quality, inclusive, and culturally responsive preschool to eligible children. (Education Code (EC) 8200 et seq.)
- 4) Establishes the ECPC to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) on statewide early learning and care policy, including the planning for, and the implementation and evaluation of, the state’s Master Plan and the 2019

California Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Early Childhood Education Final Report. (WIC 10320(a))

- 5) Requires the ECPC to do all of the following:
- a) Maintain a membership of 27 members serving for no more than 6 years, with 14 members appointed by the Governor, 4 members by the Speaker of the Assembly, 4 members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, 1 member appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2 members of the parent advisory committee appointed by that committee, and 2 members of the workforce advisory committee appointed by that committee;
  - b) Maintain a parent advisory committee of 9 members and a workforce advisory committee of 9 members;
  - c) Convene at least four public meetings per year. These meetings shall provide access for participants throughout the state;
  - d) Advise the Governor and perform activities required pursuant to federal law;
  - e) Prepare a formal public annual report on the work of the council; and,
  - f) Provide specific recommendations directly to the Governor, the Legislature, and CDSS on all aspects of the state's early childhood education system, including on the following topics:
    - i) Equity, with consideration for demographic, geographic, and economic diversity, and with a focus on family-centered two-generation approaches;
    - ii) Opportunities to incorporate a support model of accountability, as opposed to a compliance model of accountability, into the state's early childhood education system; and
    - iii) Ways that the state's Master Plan for Early Learning and Care and the 2019 California Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education Final Report can be updated and improved. (WIC 10320)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:**

***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, "AB 563 aims to provide actionable recommendations to strengthen California's early childhood and care system, and allow for smoother transitions into the K-12 system by adding requirements for the Early Childhood Education Planning Council's annual report. High-quality early care and education is critical to a child's development and long-term success. Unfortunately, we have a fragmented early care and education system operating in silos. To better serve California's children, we need a clearer understanding of this diverse system's needs, and must take coordinated action to address them."

***Key provisions of the bill.*** AB 563 expands the scope of the annual report of the ECPC to include recommendations on advancing the state's vision for children, families, and

communities, and requires the ECPC to develop policy proposals and budget requests related to ECE facility needs, workforce needs, and family access for the Legislature to consider.

***The Early Childhood Policy Council.*** According to the California Health and Human Services Agency, the ECPC’s role is to “elevate the needs of young children and their families as well as advise the Governor, Legislature and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning, care, and child development. It will provide recommendations on all aspects of the state’s early childhood system, including support for the demographic, geographic and economic diversity of the state’s children and families and ways the Master Plan and the Assembly BRC on Early Childhood Education’s final report can be updated and improved. It will hold at least four public meetings per year and prepare a formal annual report.”

The members of the ECPC are appointed by the Governor, the Senate, the Assembly, and the SPI. They include representatives of government agencies, childcare providers, advocacy organizations, school districts, and First 5 organizations. The ECPC includes a Parent Advisory Committee and a Workforce Advisory Committee.

***Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.*** In December 2020, California launched the Master Plan, which provided a road map for building a stronger, more equitable early learning and childcare system. The Master Plan provided direction for building a comprehensive system over time – one that partners with families, takes a whole-child approach to ensure the best outcomes, and supports the advancement of early learning and care professionals to ensure that families across California have equitable access to quality care and learning support.

The Master Plan identified the following goal areas and strategies to improve access to quality early learning and care programs for children and families:

- **Programs.** Unify and strengthen programs and services to support children’s learning and development through paid family leave, equitable treatment of children, universal preschool, and strengthening learning opportunities for infants and toddlers;
- **Workforce.** Support children’s learning and development by enhancing educator competencies, incentivizing and funding career pathways, and implementing supportive program standards;
- **Funding.** Unify funding to advance equity and opportunity by adopting a tiered reimbursement rate with appropriate adjustments and designing a sliding scale for family contributions; and
- **Administration.** Streamline early childhood governance and administration to improve equity by streamlining eligibility, creating an integrated data system, redesigning continuous improvement structures, establishing a system of shared services networks, and expanding the supply of early learning and care facilities.

According to a December 2024 Progress Report by the CDSS, since the launch of the Master Plan, funding for childcare and development programs has nearly doubled – from a total of \$3.53 billion in fiscal year 2020-21 to \$6.05 billion in fiscal year 2024-25. California has also made significant achievements in the identified goal areas:

- Expanded childcare access with over 129,000 new subsidies and doubled investments in CSPP, while tripling investments in transitional kindergarten (TK), aiming for universal PK access for 4-year-olds by 2025. Paid family leave benefits were improved for low- and middle-income workers, while new policies enhanced support for dual language learners, children with disabilities, and behavioral health resources;
- To support educators, the state invested \$163 million in inclusive classrooms, launched 12 new online training courses, and allocated \$650 million to teacher residency programs. A \$40 million training fund was established for childcare providers through a partnership with the California Childcare Providers Union (CCPU);
- Efforts to unify funding include developing a cost-based single rate structure, distributing \$144.5 million in supplemental payments, providing \$500 incentives, and issuing \$2,157 per-child stipends. Family fees were also reduced, capped at 1% of income for low-income families; and,
- California invested over \$1 billion through a partnership with the CCPU, including an \$80 million retirement trust fund, transferred \$4 billion in programs to the CDSS for improved equity and quality, and initiated the development of a comprehensive early childhood data system. Additionally, \$350.5 million was allocated for childcare infrastructure grants, and access to kindergarten facilities was expanded through legislative efforts.

***Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Early Childhood Education.*** The BRC on Early Childhood Education was established with the intent to “plan an early learning system that works for/meets the needs of children, families, and providers.” The BRC was dedicated to the development of strategic solutions to improve outcomes for young learners in California.

The BRC released its final report in April 2019, including several recommendations to achieve its vision of an early care and education system linked to comprehensive support that works for children, families, and providers and improves outcomes for young learners. In the report, the BRC identified goal areas to facilitate the long-term vision for the future, including governance and administration; family engagement; access for children and families; workforce; quality improvement; systems and infrastructure; facilities and supply; coordination and alignment; and financing. Since the release of the 2019 final report, there have been no updates by the BRC on the progress of the outlined recommendations.

***Arguments in support.*** Easterseals Northern California writes, “AB 563 would require the Early Childhood Policy Council to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the successes and shortcomings of the state’s childhood education systems, along with recommendations for improving the same. This would facilitate bridging gaps in our state’s education system, which would benefit children with disabilities by providing them better access to educational opportunities.”

***Related legislation.*** AB 131 (Committee on Budget) Chapter 116, Statutes of 2021, transferred responsibility for specified early childhood programs and responsibilities from the California Department of Education (CDE) to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) effective July 1, 2021, including responsibility for the ECPC.

AB 114 (Committee on Budget) Chapter 413, Statutes of 2019, established the ECPC to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning and care policy, building on the work of the state's Master Plan and the 2019 California Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education Final Report.

SB 75 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) Chapter 51, Statutes of 2019, established the ECPC to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning and care policy, building on the work of the state's Master Plan and the 2019 California BRC on Early Childhood Education Final Report.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

Easterseals Northern California

**Opposition**

None on file

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