CHILDREN'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 2001–02

REPORT CARD TERM: 2001 (Interim Report)

Dear Californians,

This Report Card reflects the grades attributed to California legislators for their votes on child-related legislation during the first year of the 2001–02 legislative session. The grades you will see reflect each legislator's votes on 23 bills that ran through policy and fiscal committees and achieved votes on the Assembly and Senate floors.

Our 23 bills are limited to those voted upon on Senate and Assembly floors. That choice can distort percentage scores somewhat. Some Republicans argue that their agenda for children involves less public investment and more legislation to promote private responsibility. They contend that such measures fail to get through committees in a Democratically-controlled Legislature, creating a bias in vote opportunities dominated by liberal spending programs. We agree that private accountability and commitment measures are properly counted, and that the parties should be adopting rather than cancelling each other's agenda for children. The current political balance may favor Democrats over Republicans to the extent that fewer items reflecting the child-related agenda of the out-of-power party reach the floor for vote. Nevertheless, the final and determinative decision on a statute or appropriation remains relevant in judging commitment to children, whatever additional possible votes may regrettably not occur for us to count.

A second frustration impeding accountability is the removal of many of the most important public investment decisions from public scrutiny. Legislative leaders commonly hold important bills captive in the "suspense files" of the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees, refusing to allow the bills to come up for a vote, often after highly public positive votes in policy committees or on the floor. This legislative "Gulag Archipelago" ensures the demise of the measures while enabling legislators to avoid voting against them publicly. When one has the power to determine which measures will come up for a vote, a 100% rating is not difficult to achieve. Consider a legislator who otherwise scored 100% on the 23 bills featured herein; if that legislator had the power to pull ten more important child-related bills out of suspense for a public vote, but he or she did not do so, a more appropriate grade might be 70%.

This Report Card is intended to educate and inform you of your legislators' progress on improving the status of and outcomes for children in this state. It cannot tell you all there is to know about your legislators. Accordingly, we urge you to communicate frequently with them so they know your expectations for California's children and for them.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Fellmeth

Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Institute

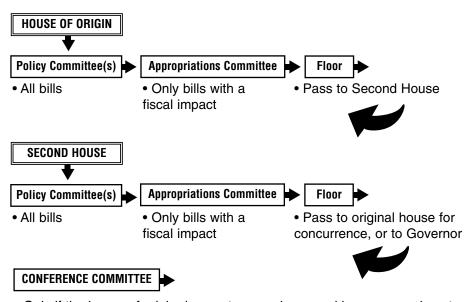
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A Primer THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

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

How the California Legislature Performed in 2001 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

I. THE STATE BUDGET IN GENERAL

The 2001–02 legislative session started off with high hopes. Last year's state budget had enjoyed a record surplus of more than \$18 billion over the previous year's revenue projections. Even though 2001 was projected to experience modest economic growth, the Governor's proposed budget, released in January, estimated there would be \$8 billion in new resources available to allocate through the budget process. The May Revise to the Governor's Budget, however, gave us a different reality. A slower national economy and the looming energy crisis would not allow the state to enjoy its projected surplus.

In fact, the energy crisis quickly became the central issue monopolizing the attention of the Legislature and Governor, starting with SBX1 7 (Burton), signed into law January 19 by Governor Davis; this measure authorized a \$400 million expenditure to purchase electricity from power generators and sell it at cost to consumers, utilities, and the Independent System Operator (responsible for directing electricity distribution). The saga continued with a \$6.2 billion loan from the General Fund to the Department of Water Resources to purchase power for customers of the state's investor-owned utilities. The 2001–02 budget assumed that the loan will be repaid in full during the current fiscal year through bonds issued by the state. Unfortunately, the California Public Utilities Commission has taken only two of the four actions required to put the bonds on the market.

What does all of this mean for the state's budget? The 2002–03 budget is expected to hold a budget shortfall of \$1.4 billion (the difference would likely be made up by reserves from the current fiscal year). If the General Fund is not repaid for the energy purchases, the budget deficit could be closer to \$7.6 billion, about 10% of General Fund spending. And these projections were made before the September 11 tragedy—it is possible that the budget deficit will increase given the substantial drop in the stock market and consumer confidence. Since the Governor demands a prudent 2% reserve, reductions totaling \$9.3 billion would need to be made in 2002–03 to achieve the 2% reserve. This would mean either significant cuts in current spending (i.e., reductions in current programs and services) or tax increases.

Significant cuts to children's programs are a very real possibility. For example, even before the above events set in, Governor Davis proposed a \$38 million cut to the Child Protective Services (CPS) base program in his January Budget. In a show of strong unity, the Legislature ultimately reinstated the CPS funds and the Governor kept them in the final budget act. However, if CPS is fair game for cutback consideration, so are many other worthy programs. Given the Governor's insistence on a prudent reserve and his ability to dominate the budget process, children will continue to suffer public disinvestment unless the Legislature asserts its constitutional authority as the budget-enacting branch.

II. SPECIFIC CHILD-RELATED PROGRAMS

A. Child Care and Development

In Spring 2000, Governor Davis requested a review of the State's child care policies, with the stated goal of determining how existing resources may be more

^{1.} A new tax increase is a politically difficult source of additional revenue. The Conference Committee budget bill was held up for over a month and a half in the Legislature because Republicans wanted a sales tax reduction, notwithstanding revenue diminution and a dubious surplus. The new Budget Act improvidently lowered the trigger for that reduction from anticipated revenues yielding a 4% surplus to a 3% surplus—allowing tax reduction although revenues are closer to costs.

efficiently used to equitably serve the state's neediest families. The resulting report, Child Care Fiscal Policy Analysis: Analyzing Options to Focus the State's Existing Resources to Serve the State's Neediest Families, released in May 2001, did not provide specific recommendations but laid out seven different scenarios, each of which make it more challenging for working poor families to become and remain self-sufficient. Although the Governor was expected to make swift policy changes to child care funding with the release of the report, the Women's Caucus and other members of the Legislature remained steadfast that no substantive policy changes would be made via the budget process. Citing Davis' own words when he vetoes budget allocations where the policy merits have not been discussed by the Legislature, the Women's Caucus demanded that all policy changes be considered and debated by the Legislature.

The Governor vetoed \$44 million from Stage 3 child care, setting aside \$24 million of that amount pending enactment of legislation that "reform[s] the State's subsidized child care programs in a manner that...use[s] existing resources...more effectively and revise[s] inequitable access policies that currently disadvantage low-income populations who have not received public assistance through CalWORKs." Given that less than two-thirds of the children in working poor families receive the child care assistance for which they are eligible, the \$44 million veto does not seem to make for "equitable" policies.

The Governor has challenged the Women's Caucus to propose how to deal with an ever-increasing population and diminishing allocation of state funds for child care. To this end, the Women's Caucus is holding two forums — on October 25 in Oakland and October 29 in Los Angeles — to receive public input. The activism of the Women's Caucus demonstrates the proactive role constitutionally envisioned for the Legislature.

One option that should receive considerable attention and legislative support is the state's potential use of Title IV-E foster care funds. Federal law allows states to add the cost of child care to the state's basic foster care rate. In essence, Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides a 50% federal matching grant for payments made to licensed child care for foster children. While the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is a block grant, IV-E is an uncapped entitlement. According to the Department of Education, more than 10% of children sampled in alternative payment programs are foster children. Moving these foster children to IV-E would free up CCDF funds to be made available to other children on the wait list. This concept is embraced in AB 1105 (Simitian) which has stalled in the Senate Appropriations Committee's Suspense File. The Legislature should have recognized the potential value of pulling down federal funds and pushed harder for AB 1105.

The Children's Roundtable, convened by the Children's Advocacy Institute, is working with the Women's Caucus and other child care advocates to advocate for certain principles that should be in place when the Administration reviews potential options.

Other child care and development services funded that were a priority for the Legislature included:

- Stage 1 child care: \$586 million total for families entering a job search;
- Stage 2 child care: \$522 million total for families where employment has stabilized or who are transitioning off aid;
- Stage 3 child care: \$236 million total for families receiving diversion services, in long-term training, or who are receiving a wage that does not exceed 75% of the state median income and are regularly employed;
 - \$3 million for the "development and validation of assessment instruments" to

measure school readiness in young children as part of the School Readiness Initiative; and

• \$17.5 million restored to the Child Care Facilities Financing Program.

Unfortunately, the Legislature did not foresee that the Administration would fund \$300,000 for a follow-up report to the Child Care Fiscal Policy Review. This review will be released at the beginning of next year. The task for the Women's Caucus and the Legislature will be to again ensure that the Governor's proposals for child care do not circumvent the legislative process.

B. Foster Care

In 2001, the Assembly Democrats agreed to make foster care their number one legislative priority; Republican legislators and the media also took an interest and acknowledged that the state, as the guardian of foster children, deserved a failing grade for the treatment and care of its most vulnerable children. Every year in California, over 500,000 cases of maltreatment are reported. Almost 25% of those are found to be substantiated cases of abuse. In fact, over three-fourths of all children removed from their homes are removed due to neglect.

The Assembly Democrats carved out a package of eleven foster care bills, called the "Speaker's Package," and funded it at over \$330 million over the next five years. The following bills were included in the Speaker's Package:

- AB 1119 (Hertzberg) provides continued assistance to foster youth who emancipate out of the system;
- •AB 1261 (Migden) extends the age of eligibility for transitional housing for foster youth to 21 years;
- AB 1449 (Keeley) compromises the obligor debt for a parent who reunifies with his/her child;
 - AB 636 (Steinberg) creates an accountability and review system;
- AB 705 (Steinberg) includes sibling relations as a factor to consider in the placement of children;
 - AB 1330 (Steinberg) increases the rates for foster family homes;
 - · AB 1105 (Simitian) provides child care assistance for foster family homes;
- \bullet AB 364 (Aroner) reduces the caseload ratio for social workers in Child Welfare Services:
- \bullet AB 557 (Aroner) funds recruitment and retention programs for foster family homes;
 - · AB 899 (Liu) states the rights of foster children; and
- \bullet AB 1395 (Ashburn) provides post-adoption counseling services to children and families.

Most of these bills received overwhelming bipartisan support. For example, AB 1330 did not receive a single "no" vote. In fact, the problem addressed by AB 1330 was cited as the top foster care issue, according to a Republican analysis of the bill. Unfortunately, due to concerns related to cost and because the bill was not included in the final budget negotiations, AB 1330 remains in the Senate Appropriations Suspense File.

Unfortunately, the looming energy crisis and resistance by the Governor to commit to ongoing expenditures resulted in only two bills surviving the budget process — AB 1119 and AB 1261. A handful of other foster care bills made it through the legislative process and were signed by the Governor; these include AB 636, AB 705, AB 899, and AB 1449.

Although the foster care reform proposals were diminished from a \$330 million package to less than \$18 million for legislative initiatives, the budget did contain a few important elements:

- \$10 million to fund transitional housing programs for emancipated foster youth;
- \$6.5 million to provide continued rate assistance to emancipated foster youth who are pursuing an education or job training;
- •\$1.5 million for an Internet-based health and education passport system for emancipated youth;
- •\$64.5 million for COLAs to foster family homes, foster family agencies, and groups homes effective July 1, 2001; and
 - •\$878.7 million total for child welfare services.

Although cuts were not imposed on foster care children, long-sought increases—including some which would net revenue for the state—were defeated or put in the ubiquitous suspense file in Appropriations, where they die without vote and legislative accountability. The only two bills to be funded via the budget process were measures authored by the Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg and the Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, Carole Migden. Several bills authored by other legislative leaders (such as Dion Aroner, Darrell Steinberg, and Kevin Shelley) did not receive a budget allocation. Unfortunately, those who pay the direct price of this legislative and executive failure are the 120,000 children in foster care, for whom the state remains a neglectful parent. The state continues to underfund family foster care, leading to an undersupply of the most common route to adoption; the state does not effectively create stable placements, does not educate foster care children, and substantially abandons its children to the streets at age 18.

C. Education

In January, the Governor proposed \$1.4 billion over the next three years to extend instructional time in middle grade schools (grades 7 and 8 and grades 6 or 9), increasing the academic year by 30 days to 210 days total for participating schools. Funding would have been conditioned upon schools using standards-aligned textbooks for the purpose of strengthening math and reading skills. However, research does not confirm that extending middle grades works, as opposed to enhancing quality through smaller classes and better teachers. Governor Davis received support from the California League of Middle Schools, while the California Teachers Association strongly opposed the legislation. The Legislature remained generally silent about the merits of the proposal.

The May Revise dropped the proposal and instead opted to provide \$220 million to low-performing schools. During final budget negotiations, the Legislature reduced the allocation to \$200 million, and convened a conference committee to evaluate six pending related bills dealing with low performing schools.

Many legislators took a keen interest in the issue. Bills included AB 312 (Wesson), AB 336 (Goldberg), AB 481 (Diaz), AB 961 (Steinberg), SB 466 (Ortiz), and SB 508 (Vasconcellos). Priority for the \$200 million would be granted to those schools currently participating in the Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program (II/USP) and ranked in the lowest five deciles of the Academic Performance Index (API). Prioritizing funds will likely be more successful given the characteristics of the schools. For example, schools in the lowest three deciles of the API serve children and families with striking characteristics: a high percentage are low-income

(85% free/reduced meals); Latino (75%) and other ethnic groups (16%); and English Language Learners (48%). As such, more targeted resources are necessary to ensure that these children do not face additional barriers imposed on them by poverty and other related socio-economic factors.

This \$200 million allocation was also done in conjunction with an augmentation to the II/USP, another initiative that was widely supported by the Legislature. The Legislature approved \$47.2 million to increase the implementation grant funding from \$168 to \$200 per pupil. Other significant budget actions that were taken include:

- An increase in per pupil spending by \$324 from 6,678 to 7,002 a 4.9% increase;
 - \$80 million for the Math and Reading Professional Development Program;
 - \$92.9 million to fund the Cal Grant expansion;
 - \$118 million to continue the Governor's Scholarship Program;
 - \$10 million for the High-Tech High Schools;
 - \$29.7 million for after-school programs;
 - \$40 million for school equalization; and
 - \$250 million for school energy costs and conservation efforts.

Regarding higher education, the state opened the way for many poorer students to attend through its important year 2000 expansion of Cal Grants. However, even if all tuition and room and board were to be provided, opportunity is limited by higher education capacity. In this critical area of expansion, the state is failing. We are not increasing the proportion of children with higher education access at a time when the jobs of the future will require it.

The need for greater higher education capacity is accentuated by the population bulge now wending its way through California's middle and high schools. A 1999 national study of juvenile population found that from 1995–2015 California will increase its juvenile population more than any other state in the nation; the 0–17 group will increase by 34% (with a national average increase of 8%).

D. Health Care

Parental expansion of the Healthy Families Program for parents with an income up to 250% was one of this year's signature marks for the Legislature. In January, the Governor proposed the Healthy Families expansion only to those parents with an income under 200% FPL. Even though this clearly went beyond the intent of the Administration, the Legislature included language in the budget which funds Healthy Families for all parents with eligible children with an income under 250% FPL. This language was included in the final Budget Act. Total parent enrollment is expected to be 663,000 by June 30, 2002. Even though it was noteworthy for the Legislature to extend Healthy Families to parents up to 250% rather than 200%, some details should be considered.

During the Budget Conference Committee, the Administration relayed to the conferees that it would be amenable to a Healthy Families parental expansion up to 250%, if the asset test for Medi-Cal were retained. (The asset test, which saves the state \$8.5 million, is an onerous bureaucratic barrier facing the working poor who apply for Medi-Cal.) Previous to the budget Conference Committee, the Legislature had also adopted \$10 million for express lane and the coverage of 19- and 20-year-olds in Medi-Cal and/or Healthy Families. However, the latter two were also pawns in the budget negotiations and were eliminated in order to spare the Governor the embarrassment of having to veto laudable public health services using federal monies that

will now have to be returned to Washington, D.C. Instead of making the Governor take a public stand on measures, the Legislature produced a health care budget which leaves more than two million children uninsured in California, notwithstanding federal funds available to finance 67% of their coverage costs.

Although the Governor seemed set against earmarking tobacco settlement funds for health care, the Budget Act created just such a fund. Unfortunately, while advocates hoped that the fund would pay for new programs, the vast majority of the money will be used to pay for existing programs such as youth tobacco cessation programs and cancer research and treatment. The Tobacco Settlement Fund will also pay for the Healthy Families parental expansion. For the 2001–02 fiscal year, a total of \$401.9 million will be deposited into the fund.

Other health care issues funded through the budget include:

- Breast and cervical cancer treatment up to 200% FPL;
- \$1 million to the Binational Health Initiative for health education, promotion, technical assistance, immunizations, HIV/STDs, tuberculosis and chronic disease prevention in the California-Mexico border;
- \$5 million for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families outreach proposed from the Proposition 10 Commission;
- \$23.5 million General Fund for the Expanded Access to Primary Care program which provides health care to "vulnerable populations";
- Reduced legislative augmentations to the Rural Health Services Program, the Seasonal Agricultural and Migrant Workers Clinic Program, and the American Indian Health Program; and
 - \$8.5 million for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention.

III. WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE FUTURE

Governor Davis continues to show hostility toward any expenditures that have long-term implications, stating that he does not want to tie the state's hands with ongoing commitments during harsh economic times. Unfortunately, impoverished children do not fare better when times are hard — that's when they need assistance the most. And if the "Education Governor" is unwilling to recognize that hungry children cannot be taught, and that uninsured sick children cannot learn, and that foster children deserve to have their parent (the State of California) assist them in obtaining higher education, then the Legislature needs to force such long-term investments in children.

The honeymoon is over. The Governor benefited greatly from legislative deference during his first three years in office. Many welcomed the new Administration, and party loyalty inhibited disagreement. Child advocates contend that the time has come for the Legislature to assert its will, consistent with its constitutional obligation. As the primary taxing and appropriating body, the budgets the Legislature enacts are its enduring legacy. That legacy should reflect the preeminent priority of the body politic — the protection and advancement of our children.

Subjects Graded

2001 BILLS

POVERTY

AB 144 (Cedillo) would have exempted from the CalWORKs and Food Stamp program resource limits the full value of one vehicle and the full value of an additional vehicle in circumstances where more than one adult lives in the family or household and at least one adult reports earned income; required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to use the same vehicle resource rules in the Food Stamp program and the CalWORKs program; and required DSS to seek any necessary approvals from the federal government to apply the CalWORKs vehicle resource rules to the Food Stamp program.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis on October 10. In his veto message, the Governor stated: "This bill will increase CalWORKs caseloads and grant costs because more families would become or remain eligible for assistance. It will also increase the California Food Assistance Program caseload resulting in additional General Fund expenditures. Given the rapid decline of our economy and a budget shortfall of \$1.1 billion through the first three months of this fiscal year alone, I have no choice but to oppose additional General Fund spending."

AB 1449 (Keeley) requires the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to establish regulations for the compromise of child support arrearages owed as reimbursement for public assistance when the child is returned to the custody of the obligor in either of the following circumstances: (1) the child had been adjudged a dependent of the juvenile court, but has since been reunified with the obligor pursuant to an order of the juvenile court; or (2) the child had been placed with a guardian or relative caregiver, who received public assistance for the child, and the child has since been returned to the home of the obligor. This bill also provides that the compromise is only appropriate where the obligor parent has an income less that 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL), and the local child support agency (LCSA) determines, pursuant to regulations, that the compromise is necessary for the support of the child. Prior to compromising the debt, LCSA will be required to consult with the county child welfare department. The measure also requires DSS to establish regulations by October 1, 2002, defining cases in which it would be contrary to the best interest of the child for the county welfare department to refer a case to LCSA for establishment of a support order for the reimbursement of public assistance; requires DSS and DCSS to report to the Governor and the Legislature on the results of these new provisions no later than October 1, 2003; and provides that the new provisions shall only be implemented to the extent that federal financial participation is not reduced for the AFDC-FC and CalWORKS programs.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 2 (Chapter 463, Statutes of 2001).

AB 767 (Goldberg) would have permitted individuals who were convicted of possession or use of a controlled substance after December 31, 1997 to participate in the CalWORKs and the Food Stamp programs, if they (a) successfully completed, are currently participating in, or are willing to enroll in a state-licensed, certified, or county-run drug treatment program; (b) currently participate in a court-mandated

drug treatment or diversion program; (c) fulfilled court-imposed conditions in the disposition of their criminal case at least five years prior to the application for assistance; or (d) are not currently using a controlled substance. The bill would have required individuals not currently enrolled in drug treatment to take and pass a drug-screening test to demonstrate they are not using a controlled substance prior to receiving assistance, and would have required these individuals to periodically take and pass drug screens to continue receiving benefits, and applied financial sanctions to individuals who fail or refuse to take drug screens.

STATUS: Passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis on October 2. In his veto message, the Governor stated: "Due to continued economic uncertainty, California should not be expanding eligibility for the CalWORKs program. This bill will result in a significant change to the CalWORKs program and increase the CalWORKs caseload, resulting in an increase in costs in county administration grants and employment services."

SB 380 (Murray) would have allowed certain CalWORKs program recipients who participate in welfare-to-work activities to have an hour of study each hour in the classroom, up to a maximum of six hours per week, to apply toward their weekly hourly work requirement. This bill would have applied to students who would otherwise qualify for the welfare-to-work program.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis on October 1. In his veto message, the Governor stated: "While well-intentioned, this bill reduces the work requirement for students who are already receiving CalWORKs services. For this reason, I cannot support this bill."

HEALTH / SAFETY

AB 59 (Cedillo) establishes a statewide pilot project to expedite Medi-Cal enrollment for children receiving free lunches through the National School Lunch Program, effective July 1, 2002. Further, this measure essentially authorizes immediate Medi-Cal enrollment of children who are in families with incomes less than 100% FPL, and require simplified additional information to determine if children in families over 100% FPL are eligible for either Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program. In addition, the bill requires county welfare departments to assist Food Stamp applicants with applying for Medi-Cal and provide information on the Healthy Families program to families who do not qualify for Medi-Cal.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 14 (Chapter 894, Statutes of 2001).

AB 495 (Diaz) establishes the Children's Health Initiative Matching Fund. The measure requires the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to administer the Fund and the provisions of this bill, in collaboration with the Department of Health Services (DHS), for the express purpose of allowing local funds to be used to facilitate increasing the state's ability to utilize federal funds available to California. The measure permits specified governmental entities to submit a proposal for funding for the purpose of providing comprehensive health insurance coverage to any child who meets specified criteria, including the fact that the child's family income is at or below 300% of the federal poverty level in specific geographic areas.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 9 (Chapter 648, Statutes of 2001).

SB 9 (Soto) expands the scope of the storage of firearms laws by changing the definition of a child from a person under the age of 16 to a person under the age of 18.

The bill also creates a misdemeanor for any person who negligently allows a child to access a firearm if the child takes the firearm to school or a school event, and changes the language in the warnings posted by licensed firearm dealers to comply with the proposed changes in law.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on July 30 (Chapter 126, Statutes of 2001).

SB 10 (Soto) changes the sunset date on the Safe Routes to School Program; extends the grant program from January 1, 2002 until January 1, 2005; and delays, for two years, a required evaluation of the program.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 7 (Chapter 600, Statutes of 2001).

SB 19 (Escutia) requires the reimbursement a school receives for free and reduced-price meals sold or served to pupils in elementary or middle schools to be increased to \$0.23; establishes various limitations and prohibitions on the sale of beverages and foods to pupils in elementary and middle schools; requires the Department of Education to establish a pilot program in which not less than ten high schools, middle schools, or any combination thereof, voluntarily adopt the provisions of this bill; and permits a school district maintaining at least one elementary school or middle school, or high school that is participating in the pilot program established by this bill, to convene a Child Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 14 (Chapter 913, Statutes of 2001). However, Governor Davis eliminated the \$5.5 million appropriation in the bill for grants to local school districts to implement the new nutrition standards and for monitoring and technical assistance costs of the state Department of Education. According to Davis, "it is premature to allocate General Fund without first exploring the use of federal funds for this purpose."

SB 52 (Scott) provides that, subject to various exceptions, no person may purchase, transfer, or receive a handgun, as defined, without a handgun safety certificate, as specified. Also, this bill provides that no handgun safety certificate may be issued to any person under 18 years of age; establishes an application procedure for obtaining a handgun safety certificate, including the applicant's successful completion of a written test; requires the successful completion of a safe handling demonstration before a dealer would deliver a handgun, as specified; and provides that the provisions described in this paragraph become operative on January 1, 2003.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 14 (Chapter 942, Statutes of 2001).

SB 231 (Ortiz) requires DHS to amend the Medicaid state plan with respect to the billing option for services by Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to ensure that schools are reimbursed for all eligible services they provide that are not precluded by federal requirements; requires DHS to regularly consult with specified entities to assist in formulating the state plan amendments; permits DHS to enter into a sole source contract to comply with the requirements of this bill; and authorizes DHS to undertake all necessary activities to recoup matching funds from the federal government for reimbursable services that have already been provided in the state's public schools.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 10 (Chapter 655, Statutes of 2001).

SB 255 (Speier) makes it an infraction, punishable by a fine of \$100, for the parent, legal guardian, or other person responsible for a child who is six years of age

or younger to leave that child inside a motor vehicle, without being subject to the supervision of a person who is twelve years of age or older, and where there are conditions that present a significant risk to the child's health or safety, or when the vehicle's engine is running or the vehicle's keys are in the ignition, or both. This bill authorizes the court to reduce or waive the fine if the defendant is economically disadvantaged and attends a community education program. This bill provides that the infraction provision and a related infraction provision do not apply if an unattended child is injured or medical services are rendered.

Also, the bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to include information concerning the dangers of leaving children unattended in motor vehicles, including the effect of solar heat on the temperature of vehicle interiors and the penalties for noncompliance with the provisions specified above, in specified materials distributed by DMV.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 14 (Chapter 855, Statutes of 2001).

SB 493 (Sher) directs DHS, in conjunction with DSS, to implement a simplified eligibility process as part of the Food Stamp Program to expedite Medi-Cal and Healthy Families program enrollment for food stamps beneficiaries who are eligible for but not enrolled in those programs. Among other things, the bill requires county welfare departments to, using information in the food stamp case file, determine the Medi-Cal eligibility of individuals who return the notice and express interest in being considered for Medi-Cal; requires county welfare departments to request either orally or in writing any additional information necessary to establish Medi-Cal eligibility; and specifies that the Medi-Cal application date shall be the date the notice is received by the county welfare department. The bill also requires county welfare departments to forward to the Healthy Families program administrator for immediate processing, the application of individuals who are determined eligible to participate in Medi-Cal with a share-of-cost or determined to be ineligible, and requires the administrator of the Healthy Families program to request any additional information necessary to determine eligibility.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 14 (Chapter 897, Statutes of 2001).

SPECIAL NEEDS

SB 511 (Alpert) requires the state Department of Education (DOE) to award grants to Family Endowment Centers on Disability (FECDs). Among other things, this bill establishes legislative intent, to the extent feasible, to establish FECDs to ensure that children and young adults with disabilities receive the support necessary to complete their education, and requires DOE to award grants to establish FECDs in each of the 32 regions of the state served by the Early Start Resource Centers.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 10 (Chapter 690, Statutes of 2001).

CHILD CARE

AB 866 (Diaz). Current law offers two credits to employers who provide child care assistance: (1) A credit equal to 30% of costs for employers who establish a child care program, construct a child care facility, or contribute to child care and information (the maximum credit which can be claimed in any year is \$50,000, but unused credits can be claimed in succeeding years) and (2) a credit equal to 30% of the costs

paid for contributions by the employer for child care services for children under twelve (the maximum credit which may be claimed is \$360 for each employee's child who is in child care). This bill extends the credits through the 2006 tax year.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 9 (Chapter 650, Statutes of 2001).

EDUCATION

AB 6 (Cardenas) revises the After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Program by authorizing before school programs and creating a new funding formula in support of the before school option. Among other things, the bill requires that programs operated before school on regular school days commence two hours before school, or on or before 6 a.m. and operate for at least one and one-half hours; provides that a pupil attending less than one and one-half hour in a day may not generate any program funding; and authorizes three-year renewable incentive grants for schools that establish before school programs.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 7 (Chapter 545, Statutes of 2001).

AB 367 (Migden) would have required DOE to ensure that all school districts are in compliance with physical education requirements as specified in law, and develop content standards for physical education. Among other things, the bill would have established that the requirement for physical education in grades 7 to 12 must include not less than 400 minutes each ten schooldays, as opposed to the current requirement of 200 minutes every ten schooldays, not including recess and lunch periods; required the state Board of Education to adopt content standards, pursuant to recommendations developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in the curriculum areas of physical education by June 1, 2003; and appropriated \$150,000 to DOE for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the bill.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis on October 10. In his veto message, the Governor stated: "This bill would impose significant state-mandated costs upon school district governing boards by requiring school districts to report school physical fitness test results, in writing, to each pupil's parent or guardian....I do not believe that increasing reporting requirements of local school districts is the proper way to improve student fitness. I would consider legislation that meets the goal of increasing students' physical fitness without mandating additional requirements on school districts."

AB 961 (Steinberg) establishes the High Priority Schools Grant Program for Low Performing Schools; requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to invite schools ranked in the five lowest deciles of the Academic Performance Index to participate in the Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program and the High Priority Schools Grant Program for Low Performing Schools; and requires a school district to report certain information annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding a participating school's progress toward achieving specified goals.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 12. However, the Governor reduced by \$2.142 million the bill's \$3 million appropriation to DOE for training and administration costs associated with this program, stating "[a]bsent a detailed expenditure plan from the Department of Education justifying this need, I am unable to support an augmentation in excess of that which I believe is necessary to begin implementation of this program."

CHILD PROTECTION

AB 333 (Wright) requires each visit by a social worker or probation officer to a foster youth to include a private discussion between the youth and the worker, held out of the immediate vicinity of foster care providers. The bill prohibits the contents of the discussion from being disclosed to the foster parent or group home staff, except under specified circumstances.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 10 (Chapter 675, Statutes of 2001).

AB 636 (Steinberg). This CAI-sponsored bill enacts the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act of 2001, and requires the Department of Social Services to establish, by April 1, 2003, the California Child and Family Service Review System, to review all county child welfare systems commencing January 1, 2004.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 10 (Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001).

AB 705 (Steinberg) requires a social worker to place siblings taken into temporary custody together, whenever appropriate and practical, or to note in his/her report the steps being taken to place them together or why placing them together is inappropriate or impractical; adds the term "substantial interference with a sibling relationship" to the list of factors a judge may use as a basis for not terminating parental rights; maintains limited jurisdiction of the court post-adoption, in order to enforce post-adoption sibling contact agreements; and requires the social worker to provide the dependent child's counsel with a complete report, rather than a summary of the report, at the same time parents and/or parents' counsel are provided with the complete report.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on October 12 (Chapter 747, Statutes of 2001).

AB 899 (Liu) establishes state policy that all children in foster care shall have specific rights, including the right to live in a safe, healthy, and comfortable home where he/she is treated with respect; the right to be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment; the right to receive adequate and healthy food, adequate clothing, and, for youth in group homes, an allowance; and the right to receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services. Among other things, the bill also requires licensed foster care facilities to provide an age and developmentally appropriate orientation that includes an explanation of the rights of the child and addresses the child's questions and concerns, and requires a foster child's social worker to inform the child of his or her rights in an age-appropriate manner at least once every six months.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 10 (Chapter 683, Statutes of 2001).

AB 1261 (Migden). Existing law permits a child declared a ward or dependent child of the juvenile court, who is age 16 years or older and who is a participant in the Independent Living Program, to retain cash savings, not to exceed \$5,000, as a resource exemption, pursuant to the child's Independent Living Program Case Plan, which money shall be for the child's use for purposes directly related to emancipation. This bill authorizes such children to retain resources with a combined value of not more than \$10,000.

STATUS: This bill was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Davis on October 10 (Chapter 686, Statutes of 2001).

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 "*\[*\pi\]." "NO" votes and abstentions are noted with a "-," indicating the legislator was "not there" for children. Abstentions count against a legislator's score because a legislator who fails to vote effectively votes "NO." In cases where a legislator had an excused absence when the floor vote was taken (for illness, legislative business, etc.), the vote will be noted with a "-\[*\pi\]" but will count as a "NO" vote for purposes of the legislator's total grade. Vacancies in a legislative seat are noted with a "V."

- ★ means A VOTE FOR CHILDREN (an "aye" vote)
- means **NOT THERE FOR CHILDREN**(a "no" vote or abstention)
- _* means **EXCUSED ABSENCE** (illness, legislative business, etc.)
- V means **VACANT SEAT** (legislator filled seat mid-term)

The 2001 Children's Legislative Report Card evaluates only 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.

Legislators' overall scores indicate the percentage of votes cast FOR children, with a possible score of 100%. Votes and attendance were tallied from the Assembly and Senate Daily Journals and the Legislative Counsel's website (www.leginfo.ca.gov).

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CHILD CARE	AB 866	EDUCATION	AB 6	AB 367	AB 961	CHILD PROTECTION	AB 333	AB 636	AB 705	AB 899	AB 1261	2001 Votes for Children	2001 Grade	Legislator
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^{-* :} EXCUSED ABSENCE

V : VACANT SEAT

^{*} Assemblymember Cedillo previously received scores of 100% (2000), 89% (1999), and 100% (1998). An excused absence on September 12, 2001, unfortunately caused him to miss seven floor votes on bills graded in this year's Report Card.

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⋖	Oropeza		*	*	*	_		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*																															
	Pacheco, Robert		-	-	*	-		-	*	*	*	_	-	-	*	-		*																															
	Pacheco, Rod Papan		-	_ ★	*	-		−	*	_	_ ★	*	_	_ ★	_ ★	_ ★		★																															
	Pavley		*	*	*	*		*	_	_ ★	*	_ ★	-	*	*	*		*																															
	Pescetti		<u> </u>	_	*	_		_	_	*	_	_		_	*	*		*																															
	Reyes		*	_	*	_		*	*	*	*	*	_	*	*	*		*																															
	Richman			*	*	_		*	*	_	*	_	_	*	*	*		*																															
	Runner		_	_	*	_		_	*	_	_	_	_	_	_	_		*																															
	Salinas		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*																															
	Shelley		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*																															
	Simitian		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*																															
	Steinberg		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*																															
	Strickland		-	-	*	-		-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	-		*																															
	Strom-Martin		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*																															
	Thomson		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*																																	

Thomson Vargas Washington Wayne

Wesson Wiggins Wright

Wyland Wyman Zettel *

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CHILD CARE	AB 866	EDUCATION	AB 6	AB 367	AB 961	CHILD PROTECTION	AB 333	AB 636	AB 705	AB 899	AB 1261	2001 Votes for Children	2001 Grade	Legislator
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Corbett
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	18 of 23	78%	Correa
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	11 of 23	48%	Cox
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	-	*	14 of 23	61%	Daucher
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Diaz
	*		*	*	*		*	_	* *	*	* *	13 of 23 23 of 23	57% 100%	Dickerson Dutra
	*		★	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	96%	Firebaugh
	*		*		→		*	→	*	<u>*</u>	→	17 of 23	74%	Florez
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	22 of 23	96%	Frommer
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Goldberg
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	13 of 23	57%	Harman
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	22 of 23	96%	Havice
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Hertzberg
	*		*	*	*		*		*	*	*	11 of 23	48%	Hollingsworth
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	22 of 23	96%	Horton
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Jackson
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Keeley
	*		★	*	*		*	*	*	*	_ ★	22 of 23 13 of 23	96% 57%	Kehoe Kelley
	*		*	^	*		*	<u>*</u>	^	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	23 of 23	100%	Koretz
	*		*	*	*		*	_	*	*	*	10 of 23	43%	La Suer
	*		*	*	*		*	_	*	*	*	13 of 23	57%	Leach
	*		*	*	_		*	_	*	*	*	8 of 23	35%	Leonard
	*		*	*	*		*	_	*	*	*	11 of 23	48%	Leslie
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Liu
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Longville
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Lowenthal
	*		*	*	*		*	_	*	*	*	15 of 23	65%	Maddox
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	18 of 23	78%	Maldonado
	*		★	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	19 of 23 22 of 23	83% 96%	Matthews McLeod
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	22 of 23	96%	Migden
	*		_	*	*		*	_	*	*	*	8 of 23	35%	Mountjoy
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	21 of 23	91%	Nakano
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	22 of 23	96%	Nation
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	_	21 of 23	91%	Oropeza
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	15 of 23	65%	Pacheco, Robert
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	12 of 23	52%	Pacheco, Rod
	_		*	*	*		_	_	*	*	_	16 of 23	70%	Papan
	* *		* *	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23 14 of 23	100% 61%	Pavley
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	* *	*	20 of 23	61% 87%	Pescetti Reves
	*		*	* *	*		*	*	*	*	*	18 of 23	78%	Richman
	*		*	*	*		*	_	*	*	*	11 of 23	48%	Runner
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Salinas
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Shelley
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Simitian
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Steinberg
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	11 of 23	48%	Strickland
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23	100%	Strom-Martin
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23 22 of 23	100% 96%	Thomson Vargas
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	22 of 23	96%	Washington
	*		*	_^ ★	^		*	<u></u>	_^ ★	_^ ★	<u></u>	20 of 23	87%	Wayne
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	_	22 of 23	96%	Wesson
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	23 of 23		Wiggins
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	20 of 23	87%	Wright
	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	13 of 23	57%	Wyland
	*		*	*	*		*	-	_	_	*	8 of 23	35%	Wyman
	*		*	*	*		*		*	*	*	13 of 23	57%	Zettel



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