

RESOLUTION 16-02-2017

DIGEST

Juveniles: Expands Limits and Use on Juvenile Reentry Funds

Amends Welfare and Institutions Code section 1981 to make available Juvenile Reentry Fund allocations for reentry services that may be used up to two years after the youth is released from court supervision.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE

History:

No similar resolutions found.

Reasons:

This resolution amends Welfare and Institutions Code section 1981 to make available Juvenile Reentry Fund allocations for reentry services that may be used up to two years after a youth is released from court supervision. This resolution should be approved in principle because there is an ever-increasing number of juveniles needing to transition back into communities, schools, and families, whose needs do not disappear when supervision by the juvenile court ends.

One of the goals of the California juvenile justice system is the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Youths released from custody have high rates of school dropout, substance abuse, mental illness, and other problems. Services to assist adolescents re-enroll in school, access physical and mental health care, develop job skills, and avoid the lure of gangs are in high demand and short supply, yet the need for them is increasing as juvenile incarcerations increase. By permitting the use of the Juvenile Reentry Funds for reentry services up to two years after the juvenile has been released from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, this resolution strengthens the efficacy of county-run and county-supported services for at-risk youth. It also better facilitates innovative programs such as the Juvenile Reentry Court, a project of the San Francisco Superior Court, which provides comprehensive reentry case planning and services through the joint efforts of the court, the Juvenile Probation Department, the Offices of the District Attorney and Public Defender, and the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. (*See* <http://sfsuperiorcourt.org/divisions/collaborative/jrc>.)

TEXT OF RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Conference of California Bar Associations recommends that legislation be sponsored to amend Welfare and Institutions Code section 1981 to read as follows:

- 1 § 1981
- 2 (a) There is hereby established a Juvenile Reentry Fund. Moneys allocated for local
- 3 supervision and reentry services of persons discharged from the custody of the Division of
- 4 Juvenile Facilities authorized in Sections 1983 and 1984 shall be deposited into this fund from
- 5 the General Fund. Any moneys deposited into this fund shall be administered by the Controller
- 6 and the share calculated for each county probation department shall be transferred to its Juvenile

7 Reentry Fund authorized in subdivision (b).
8 (b) Each county is hereby authorized to establish in each county treasury a Juvenile
9 Reentry Fund to receive all amounts allocated to that county probation department for purposes
10 of implementing this chapter.
11 (c) Allocations from the Juvenile Reentry Fund shall be expended exclusively to address
12 local program needs for persons discharged from the custody of the Division of Juvenile
13 Facilities. County probation departments, in expending the Juvenile Reentry Grant allocation,
14 shall provide evidence-based supervision and detention practices and rehabilitative services to
15 persons who are subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court or within two years of juvenile
16 court jurisdiction who were committed to and discharged from the Department of Corrections
17 and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Facilities. "Evidence-based" refers to supervision and
18 detention policies, procedures, programs, and practices demonstrated by scientific research to
19 reduce recidivism among individuals on probation or under postrelease supervision.
20 (d) Funds allocated pursuant to subdivision (c) shall supplement existing services and
21 shall not be used to supplant any existing funding by local agencies for existing services
22 provided by that entity.
23 (e) The funding provided under this chapter is intended to provide payment in full for all
24 local government costs of the supervision, programming, education, incarceration or any other
25 cost resulting from persons discharged from custody or held in local facilities pursuant to the
26 provisions of this act.

(Proposed new language underlined; language to be deleted stricken)

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STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Problem: Youth are unable to access Juvenile Reentry Fund when they are no longer under court supervision but who still require reentry services to establish stable housing and employment.

The Solution: This resolution would allow probation departments utilizing and paying for the services of Community Based Organizations (CBO's) for youth under the court's jurisdiction to continue to do so after the youth is discharged from probation but within two years of court's jurisdiction.

IMPACT STATEMENT

The resolution does not affect any other law, statute or rule other than those expressly identified.

CURRENT OR PRIOR RELATED LEGISLATION

None known.

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