



COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE
Friday, June 4, 2021
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Register for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/TJUice-ujiktE9F\_xASLGOPw3LJFL4hvJ4aD

Immediately after registering, you will receive a link and confirmation email to join the meeting.

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions

Speakers: Chair Kevin Bash, Mayor, City of Norco
Vice Chair Stacy Berry, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Cypress

II. Public Comment

III. General Briefing (Handout) (Informational)

IV. Legislative Agenda (Attachment A) (Action)

Speaker: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities

- AB 46 (Luz Rivas) California Youth Empowerment Act
SB 50 (Limon) Early learning and Care

V. Child Care Presentation (30 mins) (Informational)

Speakers: Melissa Stafford Jones, Executive Director, First Five California
Deborah Clark-Crews, Executive Director, Consortium for Early Learning Services

A panel discussion on childcare and the challenges California faces on providing affordable and available childcare in a post-pandemic world.

VI. Homelessness Presentation (30 mins) (Informational)

Speakers: Karen Roper, Homeless Solutions Coordinator, City of Corona
Matt Bates, City Net

A panel discussion on homelessness and the innovative solutions cities are using around the state to house our unhoused neighbors.

VII. Legislative Update (Informational)

Speaker: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities

A list of the Cal Cities CS interest bills can be found here and a complete list of all the Cal Cities CS bills can be found here.

VIII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Staff will notify committee members after July 24 if the policy committee will be meeting in September.

Brown Act Reminder: The League of California Cities' Board of Directors has a policy of complying with the spirit of open meeting laws. Generally, off-agenda items may be taken up only if:

- 1. Two-thirds of the policy committee members find a need for immediate action exists and the need to take action came to the attention of the policy committee after the agenda was prepared (Note: If fewer than two-thirds of policy committee members are present, taking up an off-agenda item requires a unanimous vote); or
2. A majority of the policy committee finds an emergency (for example: work stoppage or disaster) exists.

A majority of a city council may not, consistent with the Brown Act, discuss specific substantive issues among themselves at Cal Cities meetings. Any such discussion is subject to the Brown Act and must occur in a meeting that complies with its requirements.



**Community Services Policy Committee  
Legislative Agenda  
June 4, 2021**

**Staff:** Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative, (916)-658-8218  
Caroline Cirrincione, Policy Analyst, (916)-658-8250

1. **[AB 46 \(Luz Rivas\) California Youth Empowerment Act.](#)** *(As Amended on 4/26/21)*

**Bill Summary:**

This measure would establish the California Youth Empowerment Commission to formally advise and make recommendations to the Legislature and others on issues affecting California's disconnected and disadvantaged youth.

**Bill Description:**

Specifically, this measure would:

- Establish the California Youth Empowerment Commission (commission) consisting of 25 voting commissioners between 14 and 25 years of age;
  - The 25 voting commissioners would include 21 members appointed by the Governor, two at-large members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and two at-large members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;
    - Of the 21 members appointed by the Governor, they shall be from different geographic parts of the state.
  - There would also be several ex officio, non-voting members appointed by the Legislature, Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- Establish the commission to be advisory in nature, for the main purpose of providing meaningful opportunities for civic engagement to improve the quality of life for California's disconnected and disadvantaged youth;
- Require the commission to conduct regular meetings and formally advise/make recommendations to the Legislature, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Governor on various legislative and fiscal issues affecting youth;
- Authorize the commission to draft and approve resolutions, draft model legislation, provide testimony during legislative committee meetings, conduct public hearings, and award prizes or direct grants to organizations;
- Require the Governor to appoint an executive director of the California Youth Empowerment Commission to assist the commission in carrying out its work; and
- Create the Youth Commission Fund in the State Treasury, with moneys deposited in the fund available for expenditure, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to carry out the commission's duties.

**Background:**

According to the author, AB 46 will help remove barriers that prevent the voices of California's youth from being heard by their state government. Youth worldwide have become catalysts for civic engagement and have demonstrated record-shattering voter turnout in recent elections—including a turnout of over 70 percent in the 2020 General Election.

Currently, over 130 active local youth commissions advise local governments on critical public policies in California. The author of AB 46 argues that providing the state with the opportunity to hear from young individuals is essential. While multiple state commissions such as the

California Commission on Aging and the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls are authorized to advise the state government on matters pertaining to a particular community, there is no commission focused solely on the needs of youth, leaving out the voices of nearly 900,000 Californians younger than 18.

Furthermore, the author states: *"Youth deserve to have their voices heard. AB 46 will establish a 25-member youth commission that will serve as a statewide advisory body to the state government. At least half of the commissioners must have experienced youth homelessness, foster care, juvenile incarceration, or have special needs to ensure representation from traditionally underserved groups. The Commission's duties will include examining and discussing policy, holding meetings and roundtable discussions with youth advocates and the public, and investing in youth by providing grants, with strict oversight mechanisms, to programs that seek to address youth concerns. Our democracy is better served when everyone, especially youth, is given an opportunity to contribute their own unique and invaluable perspectives in policy decisions that have far-reaching ramifications for our future generations."*

**Fiscal Impact:**

The fiscal impacts of AB 46 on cities is unknown. However, staff anticipates no local costs.

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, there would be estimated total costs of \$1.4 million to establish the commission and meet the bill's requirements. These costs would include \$152,000 for equipment and supplies and ongoing costs of \$1.3 million annually for the executive director and four additional full-time staff to staff the commission and conduct fundraising activities, commissioner per diem, operating expenses, and conference and meeting expenses.

The bill specifies that the commission would be funded by both public and private funding sources and authorize the commission to seek out funding and in-kind contribution from foundations, nonprofit organizations, public and private entities, and other individuals or groups to carry out the work of the commission.

This proposal is also being considered in the Legislative budget process. The budget request additionally includes a \$2 million allocation for the commission to award grants.

**Existing Cal Cities Policy:**

**Child Care**

*Cal Cities supports the creation of more affordable, innovative and quality parks and recreation and child care options for parents and concurrently encourages adherence to strict regulations and guidelines.*

**Children**

*Cal Cities believes that the children of California must be recognized as our state's most valuable resource. Their development, education and wellbeing are key to our state's future. Further, it is essential that each child have the support needed to become a productive citizen in the world of the 21st Century. This involves supporting diverse before-and-after-school programs and creating stronger linkages between municipal services and school-based job training programs in order to produce more job placement opportunities.*

*Cal Cities promotes the development of a cooperative program with the goal to increase enrollment of California's children in the Healthy Families Program.*

*Cal Cities encourages cities to promote anti-bullying efforts across California as well as provide education and awareness to the general public about the imminent health and safety concerns for bullied children, especially those with special needs.*

**Staff Comments:**

The committee has previously had robust conversations around children, childcare, and youth programs. Out of these discussions, Cal Cities staff noted a desire for the Community Services policy committee to be more active in this space on supporting legislation that helps our youth and childcare programs. AB 46 is a measure that aims to drive more youth engagement and feedback on the legislative process.

There are many other programs, such as the YMCA Youth and Government Program, Boys State, and Girls State (to name a few), that seek to drive youth civic engagement in the state legislative process. However, the state does not currently have an official youth commission. This bill is attempting to create a formal youth commission to advise the state on issues that affect and are important to younger Californians.

Given our mission to support and maintain local control, there could be benefits to a more civically engaged youth in our communities who understand how the state legislative process works and how it affects their city.

**Support-Opposition (As of 4/21/21):**

**Support:**

California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Youth Connection  
San Francisco Youth Commission  
California Coalition for Youth  
Children Now  
League of Women Voters of California  
WestCoast Children's Clinic  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
California Association of Student Councils  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California District  
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color  
Mid-City Community Advocacy Network  
Mi Familia Vota  
Doing Good Works  
Voices Youth Centers  
Simi Valley Democratic Club

**Opposition**

None one file at this time

**Staff Recommendation:** Cal Cities staff recommends the committee support AB 46 (Luz Rivas).

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Board Action:**

## 2. [SB 50 \(Limón\) Early Learning and Care](#). *(As Amended on 5/20/21)*

### **Bill Summary:**

This measure would expand the range of types of childcare and early learning services that a State Preschool contracting agency may provide.

### **Bill Description:**

Specifically, this measure would:

- Expand the age of children that state preschool contracting agencies may serve children from three and four-year-olds, to from birth through five-year-olds;
- Authorize a state preschool program contracting agency to provide services to any child in a family who meets the eligibility requirements for subsidized childcare and who has not yet turned five by September 1 of the fiscal year in which they are being served;
- Allow children who turn five years of age by September 1 of the fiscal year in which they are being served to remain in a state preschool program until they start kindergarten, but no later than September 30;
- Provide that a state preschool program serving infants and toddlers shall be reimbursed at an equivalent rate to general childcare and development programs;
- Require the Superintendent, by July 1, 2023, to develop and implement a plan to award contracts as three-year grants based on child enrollment;
- Strike references to three and four-year-olds in regard to having priority for enrollment in state preschool, and instead, change priority enrollment to all eligible children who are neglected or abused;
- Expand priority for eligibility, enrollment, and services to include a family who has a member of its household who is certified to receive benefits from Medi-Cal, CalFresh, the California Food Assistance Program, the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Head Start, Early Head Start, or any other designated means-tested government program, as determined by California Department of Education (CDE);
- Expand, from 12 months to 24 months, the period of a family's eligibility for ongoing services after establishing initial eligibility; and
- Expand the Superintendent's authority to arrange intra-agency adjustments between state preschool contracts, general childcare contracts, family childcare home education network contracts, and migrant childcare and development contracts for the same agency.

### **Background:**

According to the sponsors of this measure, a child's experiences and relationships in the first five years of life shape the architecture of the brain and build a foundation for future learning and success. SB 50 would remove burdensome barriers for childcare providers across the mix-delivery system, allowing more children to be served in high-quality centers and family childcare homes, giving young learners a strong start.

### Need for Childcare in a Post-Pandemic World

According to the Senate's Health and Human Services Committee analysis, the Public Policy Institute of California indicates that 77 percent of California's working-age parents and caregivers of preschool-aged children were employed at least part time in 2019. At least one adult worked outside the home in 98 percent of families with two or more working-age adults. All parents worked in 55 percent of these families. Among single-parent families, 86 percent of

parents work. Sixty two percent of preschool-aged children with just one working-age adult at home lived in or near poverty.

With the pandemic beginning to wind down and folks going back to work in the office, the demand for childcare options for working parents will increase. An increase in the number of childcare slots and at affordable rates will be critical in the full reopening of the state's economy and transition out of the pandemic work-from-home system.

#### Current State Funded Programs

California has three main publicly funded preschool programs—the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), Head Start, and Transitional Kindergarten. Other publicly funded programs serve a broader age range, typically ages 0-12, by providing vouchers for some low-income working families to obtain care.

CSPP serves three to four-year-olds in low-income families (earning less than \$54,000 for a family of three) with both part-day and full-day care, prioritizing employed parents for the latter. Head Start serves children from birth to five in families with incomes under the federal poverty line (\$21,000 for a family of 3). Transitional Kindergarten has no income requirements but enrolls four-year-olds who turn five between September 2 and December 2.

#### Master Plan for Early Learning and Care

In November 2019, the California Health and Human Services Agency engaged a team of researchers to develop a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (Master Plan) to create a roadmap incorporating past recommendations and research about the benefits of quality early learning and care. The goal of the Master Plan, released in 2020, is to ensure a comprehensive and equitable early learning and care system over the next decade—helping the state better understand what families, children, and early learning and care providers are facing amid the COVID-19 pandemic and identifying key policy goals to ensure that all California children can thrive. SB 50 seeks to strengthen and promote efficiency in California's early learning and care system as envisioned in the Master Plan.

According to the author: *“SB 50 will strengthen and promote efficiency in the early learning and care system in California to better meet the needs of working parents and their children, particularly infants and toddlers.”*

*“There is a large unmet need when it comes to childcare in California, especially for infants and toddlers. According to the Early Learning and Care Master Plan, only one in five children who are eligible are enrolled in a state subsidized program. Furthermore, the current system of subsidized early learning and care is overly complex and uncoordinated, with a patchwork of different programs and funding streams. The uncoordinated ECE system creates barriers for families to access needed child care and early learning providers lack the flexibility needed to meet the needs of children and families in their communities. This bill builds toward a more streamlined, integrated, mixed-delivery ECE system.”*

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

The fiscal impacts to cities from SB 50 are unknown.

However, according to the Senate Appropriation Committee analysis: the California Department of Education (CDE) estimates that this measure would cost \$1.5 million and 7.9 positions in the budget year and approximately \$1.34 million and 7.1 positions thereafter to comply with the bill's requirements.

The CDE also indicates that the additional categories of eligible children and the modification of categories of children that are given priority under the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) will likely result in an unknown loss in program savings for the state. This assumes that contractors can enroll additional children into the program.

**Existing Cal Cities Policy:**

**Child Care**

*Cal Cities supports the creation of more affordable, innovative and quality parks and recreation and child care options for parents and concurrently encourages adherence to strict regulations and guidelines.*

**Children**

*Cal Cities believes that the children of California must be recognized as our state's most valuable resource. Their development, education and wellbeing are key to our state's future. Further, it is essential that each child have the support needed to become a productive citizen in the world of the 21st Century. This involves supporting diverse before-and-after-school programs and creating stronger linkages between municipal services and school-based job training programs in order to produce more job placement opportunities.*

*Cal Cities promotes the development of a cooperative program with the goal to increase enrollment of California's children in the Healthy Families Program.*

*Cal Cities encourages cities to promote anti-bullying efforts across California as well as provide education and awareness to the general public about the imminent health and safety concerns for bullied children, especially those with special needs.*

**Staff Comments:**

The committee has previously had robust conversations around children, childcare, and youth programs. Out of these discussions, Cal Cities staff noted a desire for the Community Services policy committee to be more active in this space on supporting legislation that helps our youth and childcare programs. SB 50 is a measure that aims to increase the eligibility of children who can participate in the state operated preschool programs.

As noted earlier in this analysis, affordable childcare options are critical for the full and swift reopening of the California economy in a post-pandemic world. Furthermore, expanding the eligibility of children who can participate in state preschool programs can help additional city employees conduct their duties without a lack of childcare options. The committee has not weighed into this space before, and this bill will help set a precedent for future legislation for this committee will review.

**Support-Opposition (As of 5/21/21):**

**Support:**

Early Edge California (co-source)  
EveryChild California (co-source)  
Kidango (co-source)  
Black Leadership Council  
California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Catalyst Family, Inc.  
Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County  
Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County  
Council for a Strong America

Early Education Action League  
Education Trust-West  
Educational Enrichment Systems  
Footsteps Child Care, Inc.  
Friends Committee on Legislation  
Good2Know Partners  
Julia A. Lopez Child Development Center  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Martinez Early Childhood Center, Inc.  
Mendocino County Office of Education  
Nourish California  
Options for Learning  
Peninsula Family Service  
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools  
San Diego Unified School District  
San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council  
Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee  
Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities  
Zero to Three, California

**Opposition**

None on file at this time.

**Staff Recommendation:** Cal Cities staff recommends the committee support SB 50 (Limón).

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Board Action:**