

Assembly Bill 748
Closing the Gap for Vulnerable Transition Age Foster Youth
Assemblymember Gipson

SUMMARY

The California Legislature passed extended foster care (*AB 12, Statutes of 2010*) to ensure that foster youth who had not achieved permanency by age 18 are able to benefit from three additional years of supports and services, in recognition of the fact that very few young people are ready for independence at age 18. In the years since extended foster care was implemented, several administrative barriers to youth being able to access the program as intended have been identified by the courts.

ISSUE

Entering Extended Foster Care – youth who have been found to be in need of a temporary foster care placement and was in that placement on his or her 18th birthday are penalized from accessing extended foster care because the final adjudication of their case was still pending at the point the youth turns 18 years old. As a result, this limited group of youth are held out of being able to access critical extended foster care support services due to no fault of their own.

Eliminating the barriers identified in the bill will ensure that youth are able to enter extended foster care to address issues raised by dependency courts in narrow circumstances beyond the control of the youth and help ensure their successful transition to adulthood.

THIS BILL

AB 748 allows a youth, who been found to be in need of a temporary foster care placement and was in that placement on his or her 18th birthday, to be eligible to be formally “declared” a foster youth after turning 18.

Specifically, this bill requires the court to hold a dispositional proceeding for a youth 18 years of age if the youth was found to be a minor with conditions of abuse or neglect prior to the youth attaining 18 years of age.

This provision clarifies that a youth is not penalized from having their case fully adjudicated just because the final adjudication was still pending at the point the youth turns 18 years old. This limited group of youth are still able to access critical foster youth support services IF the court determines it is in their best interest.

SUPPORT

- Alliance for Children’s Rights (**Co-sponsor**)
- California Coalition for Youth (**Co-sponsor**)
- Children’s Law Center of California (**Co-sponsor**)

CONTACT

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