

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 461**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ahrens**

February 6, 2025

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An act to amend Section 16001.7 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 461, as introduced, Ahrens. Foster care.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to promote the participation of current and former foster youth in the development of state foster care and child welfare policy and, subject to the availability of funds, to contract with California Youth Connection to provide technical assistance and outreach to current and former foster youth.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to that provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 16001.7 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 16001.7. (a) The department shall promote the participation
- 4 of current and former foster youth in the development of state
- 5 foster care and child welfare policy. Subject to the availability of
- 6 funds, the department shall contract with ~~the~~ California Youth
- 7 Connection to provide technical assistance and outreach to current

1 and former foster youth. In executing this contract, the  
2 responsibilities of ~~the~~ California Youth Connection shall include,  
3 but are not limited to, all of the following:

4 (1) Providing leadership training to current and former foster  
5 youth ~~between the ages of 14 and 21 years.~~ *14 and 21 years of*  
6 *age.*

7 (2) Providing outreach and technical assistance to current and  
8 former foster youth to form and maintain California Youth  
9 Connection chapters, including recruiting and training adult  
10 volunteer supporters.

11 (3) Enabling foster youth to be represented in policy discussions  
12 pertinent to foster care and child welfare issues.

13 (4) Enhancing the well-being of foster youth and increasing  
14 public understanding of foster care and child welfare issues.

15 (5) Developing educational materials and forums related to  
16 foster care.

17 (b) Funds provided to ~~the~~ California Youth Connection pursuant  
18 to the contract shall not be used for activities *that are* not allowed  
19 under federal law relating to the receipt of federal financial  
20 participation for independent living services, including, but not  
21 limited to, lobbying and litigation.