



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4722



Offered by:

REP. WALKER, 93<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

SEN. OSTEN, 19<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. EXUM, 19<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5447

File No. 642

Cal. No. 433

**"AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONCERNING TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BENEFITS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The executive director of  
4 the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity  
5 shall convene two working groups. Each working group shall include  
6 one or more members of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health  
7 Policy and Planning Committee and such other members as selected by  
8 the executive director.

9 (b) Not later than July 1, 2026, the executive director shall convene a  
10 working group concerning the treatment of eating disorders. The  
11 working group shall, in consultation with the Commissioners of Public  
12 Health and Mental Health and Addiction Services, compile information

13 to be made available to the public concerning (1) providers of eating  
14 disorder treatment services in the state, including, but not limited to,  
15 facilities that provide such treatment, (2) details concerning the types of  
16 services each such provider offers and the ages of persons typically  
17 served by such providers, and (3) other resources available in the state  
18 for persons with eating disorders. The working group shall also consult  
19 with the Commissioner of Public Health to establish best practice  
20 guidelines for facilities in providing treatment for eating disorders.

21 (c) Not later than July 1, 2026, the executive director shall convene a  
22 working group to develop a state-wide food education roadmap and a  
23 model school nutrition curriculum that includes, but is not limited to,  
24 developmentally appropriate evidence-based education programs on  
25 disordered eating behaviors, nutrition, culinary skills, growing food,  
26 food safety and food systems.

27 (d) Not later than January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the  
28 executive director shall report, in accordance with the provisions of  
29 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the chairpersons of the  
30 Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning  
31 Committee and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
32 having cognizance of matters relating to children, public health,  
33 education and human services concerning the results of the working  
34 groups' studies.

35 Sec. 2. Section 2-137 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is  
36 amended by adding subsection (o) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

37 (NEW) (o) The committee shall annually review the progress of the  
38 working groups concerning eating disorders and food education and  
39 nutrition, established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

40 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services  
41 shall, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Children and Families,  
42 Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, and  
43 the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate, study the feasibility of

44 establishing an inpatient facility to provide psychiatric treatment  
45 services to children and young adults between the ages of fourteen and  
46 twenty-one, inclusive, who have intellectual or developmental  
47 disabilities.

48 (b) The study shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The  
49 appropriate size of such facility and number of persons to be served at  
50 one time; (2) the best treatment practices for the population; (3) the  
51 operational costs of establishing such a facility and the feasibility of  
52 operating the facility within available agency appropriations; (4)  
53 appropriate sites, which may include state-owned property, on which  
54 the facility may be built; and (5) billing options for payment of inpatient  
55 psychiatric services for the population served, including Medicaid  
56 billing options.

57 (c) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Social Services  
58 shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
59 the general statutes, on the results of the study with the joint standing  
60 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
61 relating to children, human services, public health and appropriations  
62 and the budgets of state agencies.

63 Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 17b-112 of the 2026 supplement to the  
64 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
65 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

66 (g) On and after July 1, 2026, the monthly cash benefit for a family  
67 shall be not less than fifty-five per cent of the monthly federal poverty  
68 level for such family. Notwithstanding section 17b-104, commencing on  
69 July 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Social Services shall provide an annual  
70 cost-of-living adjustment in temporary family assistance benefits equal  
71 to the most recent percentage increase in the consumer price index for  
72 urban consumers whenever funds appropriated for temporary family  
73 assistance lapse at the close of any fiscal year and such adjustment has  
74 not otherwise been included in the budget for the assistance program,  
75 provided the increase would not create a budget deficiency in

76 succeeding years. The commissioner shall provide a prorated benefit  
 77 increase from such available lapsed funds in any fiscal year when such  
 78 funds are not sufficient to cover a cost-of-living adjustment in  
 79 accordance with this subsection.

80 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) On and after January 1, 2027, each  
 81 school-based health center shall (1) use an evidence-based screening tool  
 82 for early identification of disordered eating behaviors, as a supplement  
 83 to existing methods used to diagnose disordered eating behaviors, and  
 84 (2) provide such screening tool to each patient who is in grades six to  
 85 twelve, inclusive, during such patient's annual health assessment,  
 86 including, but not limited to, the health assessments conducted  
 87 pursuant to section 10-206 of the general statutes."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	2-137(o)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	17b-112(g)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section