

The Attorney General of California has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

AMENDS CHILD DEPENDENCY AND CUSTODY HEARING PROCEDURES.

INITIATIVE STATUTE. Amends certain laws regarding child dependency and custody proceedings to provide a right to jury trial, including in hearings to terminate parental rights, establish guardianship, or make permanent prior temporary custody placements, and increase burden of proof for allegations against parents in hearings to terminate parental rights.

Authorizes specified parties to reopen closed dependency court proceedings where a jury trial was not provided, in order to seek modification of prior orders regarding the permanent placement of children. Provides children a right to counsel of their own choice in dependency court. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: **Unknown fiscal impact on state courts that would depend significantly on how the measure is interpreted and implemented by the courts and the number of individuals who choose to reopen closed juvenile dependency cases. Potential unknown increase in county costs – some or all of which could be shifted to the state – that would depend on various factors including the number of individuals who choose to reopen closed juvenile dependency cases.** (21-0004A1.)