

AB 1679 (WEBER) CHILD CARE: STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS: ELIGIBILITY: MILITARY FAMILIES

POSITION: The Chamber's Board of Directors voted to SUPPORT AB 1679 on August 25, 2016.

STATUS: AB 1679 was introduced by Assemblymember Shirley Weber on January 19, 2016. The bill passed out of the Assembly and is currently being held under submission in the Senate Appropriations Committee, as of August 11, 2016.

AT-A-GLANCE

AB 1679 would exclude military housing allowance from being calculated as income when determining eligibility for state preschool services.

SUMMARY

Under existing federal law, service members are entitled to a basic allowance for housing if they are also provided with basic pay. According to the Department of Defense, basic pay is given to all military members and acts as the main piece of an individual's salary. The majority of military personnel also receive the basic allowance for housing.

If passed, AB 1679 would exclude the basic allowance for housing from being calculated as income when determining eligibility for state preschool services. It should be noted that this exclusion won't apply to all allowances, just the lowest rate of the housing allowance for the military housing area in which the individual resides.

ANALYSIS

Currently, the California Department of Education issues waivers to school districts to exclude the basic military allowance for housing. AB 1679 would simply expand this to make the housing allowance excluded for all military families who qualify. Active duty service members deserve the resources and support they need to take care of their families. AB 1679 could afford military families the ability to send their children to preschool and focus on their careers.

The Chamber continues to advocate for support of our active military and veteran communities in the San Diego region. The Chamber voted to support a very similar bill, AB 427, which was introduced by Assemblymember Weber in 2015. AB 1679 is a more scaled-back version of AB 427 and focuses solely on preschool care, whereas AB 427 would have applied to child care as well.

The Senate Appropriations Committee stated that this bill has an unknown fiscal impact while the California Department of Education indicates that AB 1679 creates minor costs.

SUPPORT

California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA)

OPPOSITION

None known