AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2021–22 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL No. 592

Introduced by Assembly Member Friedman

February 11, 2021

An act to amend Section 1559.110 of the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Sections 11400 and 11402.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster youth.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 592, as amended, Friedman. Foster youth: transitional housing.

Existing law, the California Community Care Facilities Act, requires the State Department of Social Services to license and regulate transitional housing placement providers pursuant to the act. Under existing law, a transitional housing placement provider is an organization licensed by the department to provide transitional housing to foster children at least 16 years of age ~~and not more than 18 years of age~~ and to nonminor dependents to promote their transition to adulthood. Existing law requires a transitional housing unit to ~~include, among other things,~~ *meet certain housing and supervision requirements, which may include* a host family certified by a transitional housing placement ~~provider.~~ *provider with whom a participant lives in an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium.* Under existing law, a violation of the act is a misdemeanor.

This bill *would require a transitional housing unit with a host family to include supervised transitional housing services provided by the licensed transitional housing placement provider. The bill, with respect to a transitional housing placement program serving nonminor dependents,* would additionally authorize a resource family, a licensed

foster family home, a certified foster home, an approved relative caregiver, or a nonrelative extended family member of a participant to operate as a host family. ~~The bill would require the transitional housing unit to include supervised transitional housing services provided by a licensed transitional housing placement provider.~~ Because a violation of the act is a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law establishes the supervised independent living placement as an independent supervised setting that is specified in a nonminor dependent's transitional independent living case plan and in which the nonminor dependent is living independently. Existing law defines a supervised independent living setting to include a supervised independent living placement, a residential housing unit certified by a transitional housing placement provider, and a transitional living setting approved by the county, as specified.

This bill would expand the definition of a supervised independent living setting to include a transitional housing unit in which a host family lives with a nonminor dependent who is a participant of a transitional housing placement program, including an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium owned, rented, or leased by the host family, with supervised transitional housing services provided by the licensed transitional housing placement provider. The bill would authorize a county to allow a licensed transitional housing placement provider to provide supportive services to assist a nonminor dependent in their supervised independent living setting.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1559.110 of the Health and Safety Code
2 is amended to read:
3 1559.110. (a) (1) The State Department of Social Services
4 shall license transitional housing placement providers pursuant to
5 this chapter.

(2) A transitional housing placement provider may operate either of the following programs, as described in Section 16522.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code:

(A) A Transitional Housing Placement program for participants who are minor foster children.

(B) A Transitional Housing Placement program for participants who are nonminor dependents.

(3) Prior to licensure, a transitional housing placement provider shall obtain program certification from the applicable county, in accordance with Section 16522.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. For purposes of this paragraph, "applicable county" means the county in which the administrative office or subadministrative office of a transitional housing placement provider is located, or a primary placing county.

(b) Transitional housing placement providers shall provide supervised transitional housing services to foster children who are at least 16 years of age.

(c) Transitional housing placement providers shall certify that housing units are adequate, safe, and sanitary.

(d) Transitional housing units shall include any of the following:

(1) ~~(A)~~ A host family with whom a participant lives in an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium owned, rented, or leased by the host family, with supervised transitional housing services provided by the licensed transitional housing placement provider. ~~A~~

(A) For a transitional housing placement program serving minor foster children, the host family shall be certified by a transitional housing placement provider.

(B) (i) For a transitional housing placement program serving nonminor dependents, the host family ~~may~~ *shall* be certified by the transitional housing placement provider or may be a resource family approved pursuant to Section 16519.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, a licensed foster family home or certified foster home as described in this chapter, an approved relative caregiver as described in Section 11461.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or a nonrelative extended family member of a participant.

~~(B)~~

(ii) A resource family, licensed foster family home, certified foster home, approved relative caregiver, or nonrelative extended family member operating as a host family pursuant to ~~subparagraph~~

~~(A)~~ *clause (i)* does not require additional certification by the transitional housing placement provider pursuant to subdivision (c).

(2) A staffed site in which a participant lives in an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium owned, rented, or leased by a transitional housing placement provider either with an adult employee of the provider who provides supervision or in a building in which one or more adult employees of the provider reside and provide supervision.

(3) A remote site in which a participant lives independently in an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium owned, rented, or leased by a transitional housing placement provider under the supervision of the provider if the department provides approval. The remote site shall only be available to nonminor dependents.

(e) (1) A transitional housing placement provider may cosign a lease with a nonminor dependent as specified by the department.

(2) A participant shall not be permitted to solely sign a rental or lease agreement.

(f) A transitional housing placement provider's plan of operation shall include a program statement. The program statement shall contain a description of the core services and supports, as set forth in paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 11463 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and as prescribed by the department, to be offered to participants, as appropriate or as necessary.

(g) (1) The department shall adopt regulations to govern transitional housing placement providers licensed pursuant to this section.

(2) The regulations shall be age appropriate and recognize that nonminor dependents who are about to exit from the foster care system should be subject to fewer restrictions than those who are foster children. At a minimum, the regulations shall provide for all of the following:

(A) Require programs that serve both minor foster children and nonminor dependents to have separate rules and program design, as appropriate, for these two groups of youth.

(B) Allow nonminor dependents to have the greatest amount of freedom possible in order to prepare them for their transition to adulthood, in accordance with paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 1502.7.

(C) Maintain a program staffing ratio for minor foster children of case manager to participant not to exceed 1 to 12, inclusive.

(D) Maintain a program staffing ratio for nonminor dependents of case manager to participant not to exceed a shared average caseload of 1 to 12, inclusive, with a designated lead case manager assigned to each youth.

(E) Allow a nonminor dependent participant to share a bedroom in a transitional housing unit with any of the following persons:

(i) Another participant as approved by the provider.

(ii) A participant in Transitional Housing Program-Plus, as defined in subdivision (s) of Section 11400 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, as approved by the provider.

(iii) A nonparticipant roommate as approved by the provider on a case-by-case basis, as specified by the department.

(iv) The participant's children.

(v) Any other person as specified by the department.

(F) Allow a minor participant to share a bedroom in a transitional housing unit with any of the following persons:

(i) Another participant as approved by the provider.

(ii) A participant in Transitional Housing Program-Plus, as defined in subdivision (s) of Section 11400 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, as approved by the provider.

(iii) The participant's children.

(iv) A nonparticipant roommate as approved by the provider on a case-by-case basis, as specified by the department.

(v) Any other person as specified by the department.

(G) Any adult who is not a participant, including participants in Transitional Housing Program-Plus, as defined in subdivision (s) of Section 11400 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and who resides with a participant shall obtain a criminal record clearance or exemption in accordance with Section 1522.

(h) (1) A program manager for a Transitional Housing Placement program for nonminor dependents shall have a master's degree or higher from an accredited or state-approved graduate school, or equivalent education and experience, as determined by the department.

(2) Persons who possess a master's degree or higher from an accredited or state-approved graduate school in any of the following areas, or equivalent education and experience, as determined by the department, shall be considered to be qualified to perform

program manager activities in a Transitional Housing Placement program for nonminor dependents:

(A) Marriage, family, and child counseling.

(B) Child psychology.

(C) Child development.

(D) Counseling psychology.

(E) Social psychology.

(F) Clinical psychology.

(G) Educational psychology.

(H) Education, with emphasis on counseling.

(I) Social work or social welfare.

(J) An area that includes the counseling or psychotherapy content required for licensure as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, as specified in Sections 4999.32 and 4999.33 of the Business and Professions Code.

(K) A subject area that is functionally equivalent to those listed in subparagraphs (A) to (J), inclusive, as set forth by the department.

(i) (1) (A) In addition to the degree specifications in subdivision (h), a program manager for a Transitional Housing Placement program for nonminor dependents shall have a minimum of two years' experience in a public or private child welfare social services setting or specific experience working with transition age youth who are 16 to 24 years of age, inclusive.

(B) Documentation of the completed education and experience requirements shall be maintained in the personnel file.

(C) A transitional housing placement provider may request an exception, as specified in subdivision (j), for a person who does not meet the requirements specified in this subdivision or subdivision (h).

(D) Persons who were hired as program managers prior to January 1, 2018, are not required to meet the requirements of this subdivision in order to remain employed as program managers.

(j) (1) A transitional housing placement provider shall apply to the department, using the process established by the department, to request an exception to the requirements of subdivision (h) or (i) based on completion of equivalent education and experience.

(2) The department may grant exceptions to the requirements described in subdivisions (h) and (i) if the person to whom the

exception would apply has a baccalaureate degree from an accredited or state-approved college or university.

(3) The department shall approve or deny exceptions to the requirements described in subdivisions (h) and (i) within 30 days of receiving the exception request from the provider.

(k) (1) A case manager for a Transitional Housing Placement program for nonminor dependents shall meet either of the following requirements:

(A) A minimum of a baccalaureate degree in any of the areas specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (h).

(B) A minimum of a baccalaureate degree in an area not specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (h) and a minimum of two years' experience in a public or private child welfare social services setting, or specific experience working with transition age youth who are 16 to 24 years of age, inclusive.

(2) Documentation of the completed education and experience requirements shall be maintained in the personnel file.

(3) Persons who were hired as case managers prior to January 1, 2018, are not required to meet the requirements of this subdivision in order to remain employed as a case manager.

(4) A transitional housing placement provider shall apply to the department, using the process established by the department, to request an exception to the requirements of subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) based on completion of equivalent education and experience shall apply to the department using the process established by the department.

SEC. 2. Section 11400 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

11400. For purposes of this article, and Article 6 (commencing with Section 11450), the following definitions apply:

(a) "Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC)" means the aid provided on behalf of needy children in foster care under the terms of this division.

(b) "Case plan" means a written document that, at a minimum, specifies the type of home in which the child shall be placed, the safety of that home, and the appropriateness of that home to meet the child's needs. It shall also include the agency's plan for ensuring that the child receive proper care and protection in a safe environment, and shall set forth the appropriate services to be provided to the child, the child's family, and the foster parents, in

order to meet the child's needs while in foster care, and to reunify the child with the child's family. In addition, the plan shall specify the services that will be provided or steps that will be taken to facilitate an alternate permanent plan if reunification is not possible.

(c) "Certified family home" means an individual or family certified by a licensed foster family agency and issued a certificate of approval by that agency as meeting licensing standards, and used exclusively by that foster family agency for placements.

(d) "Family home" means the family residence of a licensee in which 24-hour care and supervision are provided for children.

(e) "Small family home" means any residential facility, in the licensee's family residence, which provides 24-hour care for six or fewer foster children who have mental disorders or developmental or physical disabilities and who require special care and supervision as a result of their disabilities.

(f) "Foster care" means the 24-hour out-of-home care provided to children whose own families are unable or unwilling to care for them, and who are in need of temporary or long-term substitute parenting.

(g) "Foster family agency" means a licensed community care facility, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code. Private foster family agencies shall be organized and operated on a nonprofit basis.

(h) "Group home" means a nondetention privately operated residential home, organized and operated on a nonprofit basis only, of any capacity, or a nondetention licensed residential care home operated by the County of San Mateo with a capacity of up to 25 beds, that accepts children in need of care and supervision in a group home, as defined by paragraph (13) of subdivision (a) of Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code.

(i) "Periodic review" means review of a child's status by the juvenile court or by an administrative review panel, that shall include a consideration of the safety of the child, a determination of the continuing need for placement in foster care, evaluation of the goals for the placement and the progress toward meeting these goals, and development of a target date for the child's return home or establishment of alternative permanent placement.

(j) "Permanency planning hearing" means a hearing conducted by the juvenile court in which the child's future status, including

whether the child shall be returned home or another permanent plan shall be developed, is determined.

(k) "Placement and care" refers to the responsibility for the welfare of a child vested in an agency or organization by virtue of the agency or organization having (1) been delegated care, custody, and control of a child by the juvenile court, (2) taken responsibility, pursuant to a relinquishment or termination of parental rights on a child, (3) taken the responsibility of supervising a child detained by the juvenile court pursuant to Section 319 or 636, or (4) signed a voluntary placement agreement for the child's placement; or to the responsibility designated to an individual by virtue of the individual being appointed the child's legal guardian.

(*l*) "Preplacement preventive services" means services that are designed to help children remain with their families by preventing or eliminating the need for removal.

(m) "Relative" means an adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including stepparents, stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words "great," "great-great," or "grand" or the spouse of any of these persons even if the marriage was terminated by death or dissolution.

(n) "Nonrelative extended family member" means an adult caregiver who has an established familial or mentoring relationship with the child, as described in Section 362.7.

(o) "Voluntary placement" means an out-of-home placement of a child by (1) the county welfare department, probation department, or Indian tribe that has entered into an agreement pursuant to Section 10553.1, after the parents or guardians have requested the assistance of the county welfare department and have signed a voluntary placement agreement, or (2) the county welfare department licensed public or private adoption agency, or the department acting as an adoption agency, after the parents have requested the assistance of either the county welfare department, the licensed public or private adoption agency, or the department acting as an adoption agency for the purpose of adoption planning, and have signed a voluntary placement agreement.

(p) "Voluntary placement agreement" means a written agreement between either the county welfare department, probation department, or Indian tribe that has entered into an agreement pursuant to Section 10553.1, licensed public or private adoption

agency, or the department acting as an adoption agency, and the parents or guardians of a child that specifies, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The legal status of the child.

(2) The rights and obligations of the parents or guardians, the child, and the agency in which the child is placed.

(q) "Original placement date" means the most recent date on which the court detained a child and ordered an agency to be responsible for supervising the child or the date on which an agency assumed responsibility for a child due to termination of parental rights, relinquishment, or voluntary placement.

(r) (1) "Transitional housing placement provider" means an organization licensed by the State Department of Social Services pursuant to Section 1559.110 of the Health and Safety Code to provide supervised transitional housing services to foster children who are at least 16 years of age. A transitional housing placement provider shall be privately operated and organized on a nonprofit basis.

(2) Prior to licensure, a provider shall obtain certification from the applicable county, in accordance with Section 16522.1.

(s) "Transitional Housing Program-Plus" means a provider certified by the applicable county, in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 16522, to provide transitional housing services to former foster youth who have exited the foster care system on or after their 18th birthday.

(t) "Whole family foster home" means a resource family, licensed foster family home, approved relative caregiver or nonrelative extended family member's home, the home of a nonrelated legal guardian whose guardianship was established pursuant to Section 360 or 366.26, certified family home, or a host family of a transitional housing placement provider, that provides foster care for a minor or nonminor dependent parent and their child, and is specifically recruited and trained to assist the minor or nonminor dependent parent in developing the skills necessary to provide a safe, stable, and permanent home for the child. The child of the minor or nonminor dependent parent need not be the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Section 300 to qualify for placement in a whole family foster home.

(u) "Mutual agreement" means any of the following:

(1) A written voluntary agreement of consent for continued placement and care in a supervised setting between a minor or, on and after January 1, 2012, a nonminor dependent, and the county welfare services or probation department or tribal agency responsible for the foster care placement, that documents the nonminor's continued willingness to remain in supervised out-of-home placement under the placement and care of the responsible county, tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization that has entered into an agreement with the state pursuant to Section 10553.1, remain under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a nonminor dependent, and report any change of circumstances relevant to continued eligibility for foster care payments, and that documents the nonminor's and social worker's or probation officer's agreement to work together to facilitate implementation of the mutually developed supervised placement agreement and transitional independent living case plan.

(2) An agreement, as described in paragraph (1), between a nonminor former dependent or ward in receipt of Kin-GAP payments under Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 11360) or Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385), and the agency responsible for the Kin-GAP benefits, provided that the nonminor former dependent or ward satisfies the conditions described in Section 11403.01, or one or more of the conditions described in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 11403. For purposes of this paragraph and paragraph (3), "nonminor former dependent or ward" has the same meaning as described in subdivision (aa).

(3) An agreement, as described in paragraph (1), between a nonminor former dependent or ward in receipt of AFDC-FC payments under subdivision (e) or (f) of Section 11405 and the agency responsible for the AFDC-FC benefits, provided that the nonminor former dependent or ward described in subdivision (e) of Section 11405 satisfies one or more of the conditions described in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 11403, and the nonminor described in subdivision (f) of Section 11405 satisfies the secondary school or equivalent training or certificate program conditions described in that subdivision.

(v) "Nonminor dependent" means, on and after January 1, 2012, a foster child, as described in Section 675(8)(B) of Title 42 of the United States Code under the federal Social Security Act who is

a current dependent child or ward of the juvenile court, or who is a nonminor under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as described in Section 450, and who satisfies all of the following criteria:

(1) The nonminor dependent has attained 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement by the juvenile court, and is not more than 19 years of age on or after January 1, 2012, not more than 20 years of age on or after January 1, 2013, or not more than 21 years of age on or after January 1, 2014, and as described in Section 10103.5.

(2) The nonminor dependent is in foster care under the placement and care responsibility of the county welfare department, county probation department, Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization that entered into an agreement pursuant to Section 10553.1.

(3) The nonminor dependent has a transitional independent living case plan pursuant to Section 475(8) of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 675(8)), as contained in the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351), as described in Section 11403.

(w) "Supervised independent living placement" means, on and after January 1, 2012, an independent supervised setting in which the nonminor dependent is living independently, pursuant to Section 472(c) of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 672(c)).

(x) "Supervised independent living setting," pursuant to Section 472(c) of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 672(c)), includes all of the following:

(1) A supervised independent living placement, as defined in subdivision (w), and as specified in a nonminor dependent's transitional independent living case plan.

(2) A transitional housing unit in which a host family lives with a nonminor dependent who is a participant of a Transitional Housing Placement program, as described in subdivision (a) of Section 1559.110 of the Health and Safety Code, including an apartment, single-family dwelling, or condominium owned, rented, or leased by the host family, with supervised transitional housing services provided by the licensed transitional housing placement provider.

(3) A residential housing unit certified by the transitional housing placement provider operating a Transitional Housing Placement program for nonminor dependents, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 16522.1.

(4) A transitional living setting approved by the county to support youth who are entering or reentering foster care or transitioning between placements. The short-term independent living setting shall not include a youth homelessness prevention center or an adult homeless shelter. A transitional living setting approved by the county for purposes of this paragraph is not subject to licensing pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (*l*) of Section 1505 of the Health and Safety Code.

(y) "Transitional independent living case plan" means, on or after January 1, 2012, a child's case plan submitted for the last review hearing held before the child reaches 18 years of age or the nonminor dependent's case plan, updated every six months, that describes the goals and objectives of how the nonminor will make progress in the transition to living independently and assume incremental responsibility for adult decisionmaking, the collaborative efforts between the nonminor and the social worker, probation officer, or Indian tribal placing entity and the supportive services as described in the transitional independent living plan (TILP) to ensure active and meaningful participation in one or more of the eligibility criteria described in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 11403, the nonminor's appropriate supervised placement setting, and the nonminor's permanent plan for transition to living independently, which includes maintaining or obtaining permanent connections to caring and committed adults, as set forth in paragraph (16) of subdivision (f) of Section 16501.1.

(z) "Voluntary reentry agreement" means a written voluntary agreement between a former dependent child or ward or a former nonminor dependent, who has had juvenile court jurisdiction terminated pursuant to Section 391, 452, or 607.2, and the county welfare or probation department or tribal placing entity that documents the nonminor's desire and willingness to reenter foster care, to be placed in a supervised setting under the placement and care responsibility of the placing agency, the nonminor's desire, willingness, and ability to immediately participate in one or more of the conditions of paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision

(b) of Section 11403, the nonminor's agreement to work collaboratively with the placing agency to develop their transitional independent living case plan within 60 days of reentry, the nonminor's agreement to report any changes of circumstances relevant to continued eligibility for foster care payments, and (1) the nonminor's agreement to participate in the filing of a petition for juvenile court jurisdiction as a nonminor dependent pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 388 within 15 judicial days of the signing of the agreement and the placing agency's efforts and supportive services to assist the nonminor in the reentry process, or (2) if the nonminor meets the definition of a nonminor former dependent or ward, as described in subdivision (aa), the nonminor's agreement to return to the care and support of their former juvenile court-appointed guardian and meet the eligibility criteria for AFDC-FC pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 11405.

(aa) "Nonminor former dependent or ward" means, on and after January 1, 2012, either of the following:

(1) A nonminor who reached 18 years of age while subject to an order for foster care placement, and for whom dependency, delinquency, or transition jurisdiction has been terminated, and who is still under the general jurisdiction of the court.

(2) A nonminor who is over 18 years of age and, while a minor, was a dependent child or ward of the juvenile court when the guardianship was established pursuant to Section 360 or 366.26, or subdivision (d) of Section 728, and the juvenile court dependency or wardship was dismissed following the establishment of the guardianship.

(ab) "Youth homelessness prevention center" means a type of group home, as defined in paragraph (14) of subdivision (a) of Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code, that is not an eligible placement option under Sections 319, 361.2, 450, and 727, and that is not eligible for AFDC-FC funding pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 11402 or Section 11462.

(ac) "Transition dependent" is a minor between 17 years and five months and 18 years of age who is subject to the court's transition jurisdiction under Section 450.

(ad) "Short-term residential therapeutic program" means a nondetention, licensed community care facility, as defined in paragraph (18) of subdivision (a) of Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code, that provides an integrated program of specialized

and intensive care and supervision, services and supports, and treatment for the child or youth, when the child's or youth's case plan specifies the need for, nature of, and anticipated duration of this specialized treatment. Short-term residential therapeutic programs shall be organized and operated on a nonprofit basis.

(ae) "Resource family" means an approved caregiver, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 16519.5.

(af) "Core ~~Services" mean~~ *services" means* services, made available to children, youth, and nonminor dependents either directly or secured through agreement with other agencies, ~~which~~ *that* are trauma informed and culturally ~~relevant~~ *relevant,* as specified in Sections 11462 and 11463.

SEC. 3. Section 11402.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

11402.2. (a) Recognizing that transitions to independence involve self-initiated changes in placements, it is the intent of the Legislature that regulations developed regarding the approval of the supervised independent living setting, as defined in subdivision (w) of Section 11400, shall ensure continuity of placement and payment while the nonminor dependent is awaiting approval of their new supervised independent living setting, in accordance with paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 1524 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) A county may elect to complete an inspection of a supervised independent living placement to ensure that it meets health and safety standards through methods other than an in-person visit, including, but not limited to, videoconferencing and telephone calls that include pictures of the living space, and may, for the 2020–21 fiscal year, temporarily approve the supervised independent living placement pending the submission of required forms by the nonminor dependent, based on the nonminor dependent's agreement that the forms will be submitted.

(c) A county may elect to certify that a supervised independent living placement meets health and safety standards once every 12 months, as long as the county has no reason to believe that the health and safety conditions of the housing option have changed. This subdivision does not require that individual placements be certified every 12 months if the same youth remains continuously in the placement.

(d) A county may elect to authorize a licensed transitional housing placement provider to provide supportive services to assist the nonminor dependent in their supervised independent living setting.

SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

O