

Brown signs Frazier bill allowing juvenile court students to earn diploma

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The possibility of juvenile court youths to receive a high school diploma got a littler easier Thursday, when Gov. Brown signed into law AB 2306 by Assemblyman Jim Frazier, D Solano.

The new law requires school districts to exempt a student from local high school graduation requirements once the student transfers to the district from a juvenile court school.

“By allowing these students to earn a diploma after meeting statewide graduation requirements, this bill increases their likelihood of continuing their education and getting ready for the workforce while simultaneously decreasing their chances of recidivism,” Frazier said in a press release.

Existing law authorizes local school districts to establish graduation requirements in addition to statewide requirements.

But AB 2306 would allow for former juvenile court school students to graduate with the statewide requirements, an exemption that currently exists for foster and homeless youth when transferring districts. Additionally, AB 2306 also requires county offices of education to issue a diploma if a student completes the statewide requirements while attending a juvenile court school.

Frazier’s bill to help these at-risk students got an endorsement from major youth advocates.

“AB 2306 removes barriers to graduation and encourages systems to make reforms to begin building a bridge from probation to higher education,” said Jennifer Rodriguez, executive director of the Youth Law Center.

As the bill, which attracted bipartisan support, made its way through the Legislature and to the governor’s desk, it had considerable backing.

Besides the Youth Law Center, it was endorsed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education, California School Boards Association, Small School Districts Association, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, National Association of Social Workers, California State PTA, and Los Angeles LGBT Center.

The new law takes effect on Jan. 1.