

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3283

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to provide foster children with court-appointed special advocates who meet national standards, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to provide foster children with court-appointed special advocates who meet national standards, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “A Casa for Every Child
5 Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. FOSTER CHILDREN REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED**
2 **WITH COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVO-**
3 **CATES WHO MEET NATIONAL STANDARDS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 471(a) of the Social Secu-
5 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
7 (26)(C);

8 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
9 graph (27) and inserting “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(28) provide that the State shall have in effect
12 such laws and procedures as are necessary to ensure
13 that each child in foster care under the responsibility
14 of the State has a court-appointed special advocate
15 who is a volunteer in a member program of the Na-
16 tional Court Appointed Special Advocate Association
17 which is in compliance with the standards of the As-
18 sociation.”.

19 (b) PROHIBITION ON PAYMENTS FOR STATE EX-
20 PENDITURES FOR COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVO-
21 CATES WHO DO NOT MEET NATIONAL STANDARDS.—
22 Section 474 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 674) is amended by
23 adding at the end the following:

24 “(g) The Secretary shall not make a payment to a
25 State under this section with respect to expenditures for
26 a court-appointed special advocate for a child in foster

1 care under the responsibility of the State, unless the advo-
2 cate is a volunteer described in section 471(a)(28).”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall apply to payments under part E of
6 title IV of the Social Security Act for calendar quar-
7 ters beginning on or after the date that is 1 year
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, without
9 regard to whether regulations to implement the
10 amendments are promulgated by such date.

11 (2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION
12 REQUIRED.—If the Secretary of Health and Human
13 Services determines that State legislation (other
14 than legislation appropriating funds) is required in
15 order for a State plan approved under such part to
16 meet the additional requirements imposed by the
17 amendments made by this Act, the plan shall not be
18 regarded as failing to meet any of the additional re-
19 quirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar
20 quarter beginning after the first regular session of
21 the State legislature that begins 1 year after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act. If the State has
23 a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session

1 is deemed to be a separate regular session of the
2 State legislature.

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