AB 1235 includes the following four provisions, which will go into effect on January 1, 2020.

1. **Renames licensing category:**
   AB 1235 renames facilities currently called “runaway and homeless youth shelters” to “youth homelessness prevention centers.” This was done to stop the use of the inaccurate term “runaways” and to refocus attention on the preventative work done at these comprehensive care facilities.

2. **Expands eligibility:**
   AB 1235 increases the categories of youth who can be served at the centers to include those at risk of homelessness, and it also creates a definition for being “at risk of homelessness” in California law.

3. **Increases days of service:**
   AB 1235 expands the number of nights youth can stay at these facilities from 21 to 90 nights.

### FAQs RE AB 1235

**Who is eligible to receive services from a Youth Homelessness Prevention Center?**
Homeless youth, youth at risk of homelessness, youth exhibiting status offender behavior, and runaway youth. A youth must be aged 12 to 17, or 18 years of age if the youth is completing high school or its equivalent.

**How is “at-risk” of homelessness defined?**
AB 1235 defines “at-risk” as a youth to whom a wide range of circumstances apply, including identification as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning, financial stress, housing instability, various kinds of abuse, problematic drug and alcohol use,

**How many facilities and how many youths do they serve?**
As of April 18, 2019, there were 11 licensed RHYS located in California, with a moment-in-time capacity of 146 youth. Over a one-year time period, these programs assist an estimated 1,400 youth.

**Is there a minimum staffing ratio or a maximum number of youth who can be served by licensed RHYS?**
Yes, the RHYS must maintain a ratio of one staff person to every eight youth.

**Can Youth Homelessness Prevention Centers serve as a foster care placement?**
No, a Youth Homelessness Prevention Center is not an eligible placement option.

**Is a county prohibited from reimbursing a Youth Homelessness Prevention Center for services provided to a foster youth?**
No. AB 1235 states that Youth Homelessness Prevention Centers may be reimbursed for services provided to a foster youth, at the discretion of the county.

**Are Youth Homelessness Prevention Centers required to conduct an assessment?**
Yes. An assessment is required within 72 hours, but it is not permitted to be a requirement for admission.

**What activities are required of Youth Homelessness Prevention Centers to promote long-term stability?**
AB 1235 requires Youth Homelessness Prevention Centers to establish procedures to conduct the following activities:
1. Reconnecting the youth with their family, legal guardian, or nonrelative extended family members when possible.
2. Coordinate with individuals, local government agencies, or organizations to help foster youth secure a suitable foster care placement.

**Are Youth Homelessness Prevention Centers required to report any data?**
Yes, they must report the following information on a monthly basis to the California Department of Social Services:
- Total number of youths served per month.
- Age of each youth served.
- Length of stay of each youth served.

**Is there a state or federal funding source for Youth Homelessness Prevention Centers?**
No, there is no dedicated funding source. Provides combine local, state, federal and private funding to operate the programs.

For more information, contact Amy Lemley at amy@jbay.org or 415-348-0011