

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 675

Introduced by Assembly Member Eng

February 21, 2007

An act to add and repeal Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 60620) of Chapter 5 of Part 33 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to public school curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 675, as introduced, Eng. Public school curriculum: tolerance and intergroup relations instruction.

Existing law requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide academically rigorous content standards in core curriculum areas, including, but not limited to, history/social science and requires the board to review and modify existing curriculum frameworks where appropriate to bring them into alignment with these content standards.

This bill would establish the Tolerance Education Pilot Program, to be administered by the State Department of Education, to promote instruction in public schools on tolerance, as defined, and intergroup relations as part of the instruction in the history/social science content standards, as specified. The bill would require the department to select 10 schools to participate in the program and receive one-time grants of \$25,000 each for one of 2 specified purposes. The bill would require each participating school to submit a report to the department on the effectiveness of the program and the use of program funds and to develop a plan to implement a tolerance and intergroup relations curriculum. The bill would repeal those provisions on January 1, 2012.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 60620) is
2 added to Chapter 5 of Part 33 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the
3 Education Code, to read:

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5 Article 2.5. Tolerance Education Pilot Program

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7 60620. This article shall be known, and may be cited as, the
8 Tolerance Education Pilot Program.

9 60621. (a) The Tolerance Education Pilot Program is hereby
10 established and shall be administered by the department.

11 (b) The purpose of the program is to promote instruction on
12 tolerance and intergroup relations as part of the instruction provided
13 pursuant to the history/social science content standards, as adopted
14 by the State Board pursuant to Section 60605.

15 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this article that
16 funding provided to schools pursuant to the program be used to
17 supplement instruction that is aligned with the history/social
18 science content standards, as adopted by the State Board pursuant
19 to Section 60605.

20 (d) For purposes of this article, the term “school” means a public
21 school that provides instruction in kindergarten or any of grades
22 1 to 12, inclusive.

23 (e) For purposes of this article, “tolerance” means attitudes and
24 behaviors that convey respect toward individuals and groups,
25 especially those individuals and groups that have been, and
26 continue to be, systematically and historically marginalized.
27 Tolerance does not mean a passive allowance or indulgence of the
28 beliefs or practices of another individual.

29 60622. (a) A school may apply to the department to receive
30 funds pursuant to the program. The department shall select 10
31 schools to participate in the program and to receive one-time grants
32 of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) each.

33 (b) Funding provided pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be used
34 by schools for either of the following purposes:

35 (1) Purchasing supplemental instructional materials that promote
36 tolerance and intergroup relations.

37 (2) Providing professional development for teachers on tolerance
38 and intergroup relations.

1 (c) In developing professional development training on tolerance
2 and intergroup relations pursuant to the program, schools are
3 encouraged, prior to providing instructional materials to pupils
4 and in order to integrate instruction on tolerance and intergroup
5 relations, to consult and partner with human relations commissions
6 and civil rights organizations that are involved in addressing
7 discrimination based on actual or perceived gender, ethnic group
8 identification, race, national origin, religion, mental or physical
9 disability, sexual orientation, immigrant status, familial status, or
10 association with a person or group with one or more of these actual
11 or perceived characteristics.

12 (d) Each school that is selected to participate in the program
13 and that receives funding pursuant to this article three years after
14 its initial receipt of funding, shall submit a report to the department
15 on the effectiveness of the program and the use of program funds
16 by the school.

17 (e) Each school that is selected to participate in the program
18 shall develop a plan to implement a tolerance and intergroup
19 relations curriculum.

20 (f) Implementation of the program is contingent upon funding
21 made available for this purpose in the annual Budget Act.

22 60623. This article shall remain in effect only until January 1,
23 2012, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
24 that is enacted before January 1, 2012, deletes or extends that date.