

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1344

Introduced by Assembly Member Mendoza

February 23, 2007

~~An act relating to instructional materials.~~ *An act relating to preschool, and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1344, as amended, Mendoza. ~~Instructional materials: local selection.~~ *State preschool programs.*

The Child Care and Developmental Services Act establishes various full- and part-time programs for a comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective system of developmental services for children to age 13 and their parents. Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer state preschool programs including part-time day and preschool appropriate programs for prekindergarten children 3 to 5 years of age, and requires the Superintendent and the State Department of Education to administer prekindergarten and family literacy programs in accordance with specified funding and other requirements.

This bill, commencing with the 2006–07 fiscal year, would require the Superintendent to annually rollover unspent funds from the state preschool program into the prekindergarten and family literacy program until all eligible children are served. The bill additionally would appropriate \$50,000,000 in the 2008–09 fiscal year and \$45,000,000 in the 2009–10 fiscal year from the General Fund for purposes of the prekindergarten and family literacy program. Priority for these funds would go to schools that meet certain criteria. The funds appropriated

by this bill would be applied toward the minimum funding requirements for school districts and community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

~~Existing law requires the State Board of Education to adopt at least 5 separate basic instructional materials for each grade level and each required subject area. The governing board of a school district is required to provide for substantial teacher involvement in the selection of instructional materials and to promote the involvement of parents and other members of the community in the selection of instructional materials.~~

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to improve the curriculum for all California pupils by giving teachers more input in the selection of the instructional materials used in their classrooms.~~

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

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

- 1 *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
- 2 *following:*
- 3 *(a) The prekindergarten years are a time when brains children*
- 4 *are rapidly developing and literacy interventions can be especially*
- 5 *effective.*
- 6 *(b) Long-term national studies show that children who attended*
- 7 *effective preschool had better vocabulary and language skills, and*
- 8 *significantly higher reading scores on standardized tests through*
- 9 *the sixth grade.*
- 10 *(c) Effective prekindergarten provides a language-rich*
- 11 *environment that strongly contributes to successful beginning*
- 12 *reading in kindergarten and beyond.*
- 13 *(d) Children who live in the attendance areas of schools in the*
- 14 *lowest three deciles of the Academic Performance Index tend to*
- 15 *have fewer language resources, starting school well behind their*
- 16 *peers in terms of vocabulary and language skills that are the*
- 17 *foundation for reading.*
- 18 *(e) Data show that only 16 percent of Latino children score*
- 19 *“proficient” on fourth-grade reading tests, compared to 41 percent*
- 20 *of white, non-Hispanic children.*

1 (f) Research shows that 80 percent of that gap can be attributed
2 to one that exists when children start kindergarten.

3 SEC. 2. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the
4 Targeted Preschool Initiative of the Governor contained in the
5 2006–07 May Revision proposed the expenditure of fifty million
6 dollars (\$50,000,000) from the Proposition 98 General Fund for
7 the first phase of a one hundred forty-five million dollar
8 (\$145,000,000) preschool expansion for four-year-old children
9 from low-income families residing in school districts in the lowest
10 three deciles of the Academic Performance Index. The expansion
11 would be phased in over a three-year period, which would allow
12 school districts to address facility needs and to build capacity by
13 hiring new teachers.

14 (b) The prekindergarten and family literacy program, as set
15 forth in Article 7 (commencing with Section 8235) of Chapter 2
16 of Part 6 of the Education Code, which includes quality reforms
17 designed to promote family literacy, shall include six thousand
18 dollars (\$6,000) per classroom to fund family literacy services.

19 (c) In order to carry out the policy direction of the Governor
20 as described in subdivision (a), commencing with the 2006–07
21 fiscal year, the Superintendent of Public Instruction annually shall
22 rollover unspent funds from the state preschool program into the
23 prekindergarten and family literacy program until all eligible
24 children are served. In addition, the sum of fifty million dollars
25 (\$50,000,000) shall be appropriated from the General Fund in the
26 2008–09 fiscal year and the sum of forty-five million dollars
27 (\$45,000,000) shall be appropriated from the General Fund in the
28 2009–10 fiscal year to the Superintendent of Public Instruction
29 for purposes of the prekindergarten and family literacy program.

30 (d) Priority for funding from the funds described in subdivision
31 (c) shall be allocated to schools that meet all of the following:

32 (1) Is ranked in decile 1 to 3, inclusive, of the Academic
33 Performance Index and will provide preschool services to
34 economically disadvantaged four-year-old children from
35 low-income families residing in the attendance area of the school.

36 (2) Provide a combination of part-day preschool and
37 wrap-around general child care services for children in
38 participating classrooms.

1 (3) *Provide age and developmentally appropriate activities for*
2 *children in participating classrooms that are designed to facilitate*
3 *their transition to kindergarten.*

4 (4) *Provide opportunities for parent and legal guardians to*
5 *work with their children on literacy activities.*

6 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
7 ~~legislation to improve the curriculum for all California pupils by~~
8 ~~giving teachers more input in the selection of the instructional~~
9 ~~materials used in their classrooms.~~