

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1381

Introduced by Assembly Member Nunez

February 23, 2007

An act to add Chapter 3.6 (commencing with Section 13827) to Title 6 of Part 4 of the Penal Code, relating to ~~the Office of Statewide Violence and Gang Prevention~~ *crime prevention*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1381, as amended, Nunez. Gangs: Office of Statewide Violence and Gang Prevention.

Existing law establishes the Corrections Standards Authority, which administers various federally funded grant programs relating to juvenile justice and crime prevention.

This bill would establish the Office of Statewide Violence and Gang Prevention, ~~and require that office to administer various federal grants relative to juvenile justice, including street gang crime prevention, which would be responsible for coordinating and assisting various persons and entities with strategies to prevent violence and gang involvement, and which, and to the extent feasible, would be authorized to perform related duties,~~ as specified. The bill would state findings and declarations of the Legislature, and the intent of the Legislature in that regard.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Violence in our communities is at epic proportions,
- 4 particularly violence among youth associated with street gangs.
- 5 (b) While nonviolent crime rates are dropping in California and
- 6 nationwide, some of the most serious violent crimes have increased
- 7 by as much as 20 percent.
- 8 (c) Gangs have been cited as being at least moderately involved
- 9 in 56 percent of all crimes in the western United States.
- 10 (d) Gang problems and youth violence are often viewed as
- 11 isolated incidents, or regional problems, and not as the epidemic
- 12 that they have become in California.
- 13 (e) Genuine prevention, intervention, and community restoration
- 14 efforts should include, but not be limited to, education opportunities
- 15 that include nontraditional means of learning or reentry education,
- 16 vocational training and experience, expanded access to a wider
- 17 array of employment, parenting skills and development, substance
- 18 abuse treatment, and counseling that teaches life and coping skills.
- 19 (f) While gang members often join gangs in their youth,
- 20 neighborhood violence and gang activities are not necessarily
- 21 age-specific behaviors.
- 22 (g) While many groups and organizations are engaged in
- 23 differing services and programs to youth, a statewide entity is
- 24 needed in California to coordinate the activities between local
- 25 governments, regional entities, the education community, law
- 26 enforcement, private and nonprofit service providers, and
- 27 individuals wanting to be involved in their community.
- 28 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to do all of the
- 29 following:
- 30 (a) Address the conditions in neighborhoods and the unmet
- 31 needs of children that allow gangs to take root, thrive, and expand.
- 32 (b) Stop focusing on isolated incidents and instead confront the
- 33 size and scope of the problems surrounding violent behavior and
- 34 gang activity, and to do so with a strong, committed, and sustained
- 35 political mandate to eradicate the root causes and conditions that
- 36 trigger street gang activity and support entrenched neighborhood
- 37 violence.

1 (c) With this act, commit to sustained gang and violence
2 prevention efforts that shift the focus from suppression only
3 strategies to comprehensive, neighborhood based, school-centered
4 strategies to effect genuine prevention, intervention, and
5 community restoration.

6 (d) Offer programs and expand services to adult gang members
7 and parolees that provide a way out of gangs and afford former
8 gang members a chance for a different life.

9 SEC. 3. Chapter 3.6 (commencing with Section 13827) is added
10 to Title 6 of Part 4 of the Penal Code, to read:

11
12 CHAPTER 3.6. OFFICE OF STATEWIDE VIOLENCE AND GANG
13 PREVENTION
14

15 13827. There is within the Governor’s Office of Emergency
16 Services, the Office of Statewide Violence and Gang Prevention.
17 The Office of Statewide Violence and Gang Prevention shall be
18 responsible for coordinating and assisting schools, parents,
19 community groups and organizations, ~~and~~ law enforcement
20 agencies, *and other state and local entities* with information and
21 innovative strategies to help prevent violence and gang
22 involvement.

23 *Specifically, to the extent feasible, the office shall:*

24 (a) *Collect and analyze data on gang membership statewide*
25 *and the effects of various gang prevention efforts on that data.*

26 (b) *Assist state and local governmental and nongovernmental*
27 *entities in developing violence and gang prevention strategies.*

28 (c) *Provide public education on effective programs, models,*
29 *and strategies for the control of violence and serving as a*
30 *clearinghouse for information on gang violence prevention issues,*
31 *programs, resources, and research.*

32 (d) *Provide training and technical assistance to help build the*
33 *capacity of organizations, communities, and local government to*
34 *develop, implement, and evaluate gang violence prevention*
35 *programs.*

36 (e) *Provide guidance to the state and local governmental and*
37 *nongovernmental entities on accessing state and federal resources*
38 *to prevent gang violence.*

39 (f) *Facilitate greater integration between existing entities with*
40 *respect to gang prevention efforts.*

1 13827.1. There is within the Office of Emergency Services,
2 the following offices:

3 (a) Director of the Office of Statewide Violence and Gang
4 Prevention.

5 (b) Chief Deputy Director of Statewide Violence and Gang
6 Prevention.

7 ~~13827.2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,~~
8 ~~commencing January 1, 2008, the Office of Statewide Violence~~
9 ~~and Gang Prevention, rather than the Corrections Standards~~
10 ~~Authority, shall administer the following juvenile justice federal~~
11 ~~grant programs:~~

12 ~~(a) Juvenile Accountability Block Grants.~~

13 ~~(b) Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002~~
14 ~~Title II formula grants.~~

15 ~~(c) Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002~~
16 ~~Title V Community Prevention Grants Program.~~

17 ~~13827.3.~~

18 13827.2. The Office of Statewide Violence and Gang
19 Prevention shall establish an Internet Web site that provides
20 information on eligibility for *the* various grants *administered by*
21 *the office*, targeting small nonprofit service providers and local
22 providers, and that provides a network of overlapping and
23 wraparound services for at-risk youth, contacts and list-serve
24 information to coordinate services with probation officers, parole
25 officers, and other service providers, and information for parents,
26 teachers, and communities on local involvement and resources.

27 ~~13827.4.~~

28 13827.3. The office shall streamline the grant application
29 process, and to the extent possible, expand eligibility for federal
30 grants that the office administers.