

Introduced by Senator Harman

January 23, 2007

An act to amend Section 51210.8 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 126, as introduced, Harman. Health education content standards: child abuse prevention.

Existing law requires the State Board of Education to adopt, on or before March 1, 2008, content standards in the curriculum area of health education and requires the content standards to provide a framework for instruction that a school may offer in the curriculum area of health education.

This bill would require the content standards to include instruction on child abuse prevention.

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. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares
- 2 all of the following:
- 3 (1) There are three major causes of death to children: cancer,
- 4 accidents, and child abuse.
- 5 (2) Every cause of childhood death has declined in the last 25
- 6 years, except child abuse.
- 7 (3) According to the United States Department of Health and
- 8 Human Services, each week child protective services agencies

1 throughout the United States receive more than 50,000 reports of
2 suspected child abuse or neglect.

3 (4) Tragically, every day an average of three children die as a
4 result of child abuse or neglect.

5 (5) Children of all races and ethnicities experience child abuse.

6 (6) The impact of even a single incidence of child abuse can
7 extend many years, even a lifetime.

8 (b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to enact
9 legislation that will result in the education of children in California
10 regarding how to recognize a potential child abuse situation in
11 advance and the understanding and skill on how to handle or avoid
12 it.

13 (c) It is further the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
14 to establish educational requirements in order to help children in
15 California to be safer by having an understanding about dangerous
16 and potentially dangerous circumstances and knowledge and
17 confidence on how best to handle or resist them.

18 SEC. 2. Section 51210.8 of the Education Code is amended to
19 read:

20 51210.8. (a) On or before March 1, 2008, based on
21 recommendations of the Superintendent, the ~~State Board of~~
22 ~~Education~~ *state board* shall adopt content standards in the
23 curriculum area of health education.

24 (b) The content standards shall provide a framework for
25 instruction that a school may offer in the curriculum area of health
26 education. *The content standards shall include, but not be limited*
27 *to, instruction on child abuse prevention.* This section does not
28 require a school to follow the content standards.

29 (c) The content standards described in subdivision (a) shall only
30 be developed if sufficient funds from any source are made available
31 for that purpose, including state, federal, or private sources.