

Introduced by Senator Torlakson

February 20, 2008

An act to add Section 17070.36 to the Education Code, relating to school facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1354, as introduced, Torlakson. School facilities: construction.

The Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 requires the State Allocation Board to allocate to applicant school districts, prescribed per-unhoused-pupil state funding for construction and modernization of school facilities, including hardship funding, and supplemental funding for site development and acquisition. The act requires the board to annually adjust the per-unhoused-pupil apportionment for new construction to reflect construction cost changes and for modernization to reflect inflation, as set forth in the statewide cost index for class B construction as determined by the board.

This bill would require the State Allocation Board to establish a procedure by which a school district that receives an apportionment of state funds for a new school site may receive additional funds before completion of construction if the additional funds are necessary to ensure that the state provides 50% of the total and final allowable and necessary project costs.

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 finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:

1 (1) The economic and social prosperity of the state relies on a
2 public education system that is in tandem with the growth and
3 needs of the state. The strength of the state economy and social
4 fabric is measured by a future citizenry and a workforce educated
5 by the public schools and the ability of the workforce to compete
6 globally.

7 (2) The investment in the public school system should support
8 a world-class education to nurture future competitive advantage.
9 The state investment in schools includes funds for school
10 construction and renovation conducive to academic achievement.

11 (3) Californians overwhelmingly support the investment of
12 public money in the public schools and have passed over \$56
13 billion for school construction.

14 (4) The Legislature and the Governor enacted the Leroy F.
15 Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 (Chapter 12.5 (commencing
16 with Section 17070.10) of Part 10 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the
17 Education Code) to make building and renovating public schools
18 more time efficient and cost effective by providing school facilities
19 funding on a per-pupil basis and restoring the flexibility for public
20 school districts to make local decisions to meet local needs.

21 (5) It was the intent of the Legislature and the Governor, with
22 the enactment of the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of
23 1998, to share equally the cost of building new schools with local
24 communities.

25 (6) The voters in approving Proposition 1A in 1998 believed
26 that the state would provide half the cost of building new schools.

27 (7) Over the last several years, studies were conducted by the
28 state and other organizations to assess the level of school funding
29 provided by the state and local school districts. The studies show
30 that the current per-pupil grants do not provide fifty percent of
31 new school construction costs.

32 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to fulfill the
33 commitment of the state to the people of California when the
34 Legislature passed and enacted the Leroy F. Greene School
35 Facilities Act of 1998 to share an equal cost of building the
36 complete schools that will enable educators to provide a
37 world-class education and produce the citizenry and workforce of
38 the 21st century.

39 SEC. 2. Section 17070.36 is added to the Education Code, to
40 read:

1 17070.36. The board shall establish a procedure by which a
2 school district that receives an apportionment of state funds for a
3 new school site may receive additional funds before completion
4 of construction if the additional funds are necessary to ensure that
5 the state provides 50 percent of the total and final allowable and
6 necessary project costs.

O