

Assembly Bill No. 18

Passed the Assembly August 27, 2012

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 23, 2012

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2012, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add and repeal Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 33625) of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to education finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 18, Brownley. Education finance: California Task Force on School Finance.

Existing law establishes the public school system in this state, and, among other things, provides for the establishment of school districts throughout the state and for their provision of instruction at the public elementary and secondary schools they operate and maintain. Existing law establishes a public school funding system that includes, among other elements, the provision of funding to local educational agencies through state apportionments, the proceeds of property taxes collected at the local level, and other sources.

This bill would establish a 21-member California Task Force on School Finance as of January 1, 2013, to review and analyze alternative formulas for allocating funds to public schools in California for the purpose of identifying and recommending a formula or formulas that best meet the needs of California's public school system and public school pupils. The bill would specify criteria to be used by the task force to evaluate funding formulas. The bill would provide that 10 of the members of the task force would be appointed by the Governor, 5 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, 5 appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and that the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee would be a member of, and serve as chair of, the task force.

The bill would specify the qualifications of the appointees, and provide for reimbursement for their expenses in attending meetings. The bill would require that meetings of the task force would be subject to specified open meeting requirements. The bill would require the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature on or before April 1, 2013. The bill would become operative only if the Superintendent of Public Instruction

certifies, on or before January 31, 2013, that sufficient nonstate funds are available for its implementation.

This bill would make these provisions inoperative on July 1, 2013, and would repeal them as of January 1, 2014.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 33625) is added to Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Education Code, to read:

CHAPTER 5. CALIFORNIA TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL FINANCE

33625. (a) The California Task Force on School Finance is hereby established as of January 1, 2013. The task force shall review and analyze alternative formulas for allocating funds to public schools in California for the purpose of identifying and recommending a formula or formulas that best meet the needs of California's public school system and public school pupils. The criteria used to evaluate different funding formulas shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following:

(1) The degree to which the formula results in a level of funding for each local educational agency that matches that local educational agency's needs as determined by pupil demographics, grade level enrollment, regional cost differences, and other cost factors identified by the task force.

(2) The degree to which the formula facilitates the attainment of educational policy objectives.

(3) The degree to which the formula can be modified to reflect changing conditions and policy objectives.

(4) The degree to which the formula can be easily administered and understood by policymakers and the public.

(b) The task force shall consist of 21 members, who shall be representative of the diversity of the state population, 20 of whom shall be appointed as follows:

(1) Ten members shall be appointed by the Governor, and shall include all of the following:

(A) One representative each of urban school districts, suburban school districts, and rural school districts.

(B) A currently employed teacher.

- (C) A currently employed school administrator.
 - (D) A currently employed classified school employee.
 - (E) A current school board member.
 - (F) A parent.
 - (G) A representative of traditionally underserved pupil populations.
 - (H) A member of the educational research community with expertise in school finance.
- (2) Five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and shall include all of the following:
- (A) A representative of suburban school districts.
 - (B) A currently employed teacher.
 - (C) A current school board member.
 - (D) A representative of traditionally underserved pupil populations.
 - (E) A member of the educational research community with expertise in school finance.
- (3) Five members shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and shall include all of the following:
- (A) A representative of urban school districts.
 - (B) A representative of rural school districts.
 - (C) A currently employed school administrator.
 - (D) A currently employed classified school employee.
 - (E) A parent.
- (c) The Superintendent or his or her designee shall be a member of and serve as chair of the task force.
- (d) The task force shall do all of the following:
- (1) Identify key issues related to the fair, efficient, and equitable distribution of resources among and within local educational agencies.
 - (2) Identify means by which a funding formula can maximize local decisionmaking authority while ensuring that statewide policy objectives are met.
 - (3) Solicit comments and suggestions from professional educators and administrators, parents, school finance experts, and other interested parties.
 - (4) Develop alternative formulas for distributing resources to local educational agencies. The formulas to be considered shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following:

(A) Modifications to the current system of general purpose funding plus categorical program funding.

(B) General purpose funding plus categorical program block grants.

(C) Weighted pupil formula.

(5) Simulate the distribution of funds under alternative formulas.

(6) Identify, for each formula simulated, a target level of funding for each local educational agency.

(7) Make recommendations regarding a methodology for transitioning to a new funding formula.

(e) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature on or before April 1, 2013, in accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(f) A member of the task force shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for direct travel and meal expenses he or she incurs to attend task force meetings.

(g) Meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Bagley-Keene Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(h) For purposes of this section:

(1) “Local educational agency” means school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools.

(2) “Target level of funding” means the level of funding that is not less than the amount yielded when a formula is applied to the total level of funding, exclusive of federal and lottery funds, allocated to local educational agencies for the 2012–13 fiscal year, plus the school district share of the outstanding maintenance factor computed pursuant to Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution as of July 1, 2012.

(i) This chapter shall become operative only if the Superintendent certifies, on or before January 31, 2013, that sufficient nonstate funds are available for its implementation.

(j) This chapter shall become inoperative on July 1, 2013, and, as of January 1, 2014, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2014, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

Approved _____, 2012

Governor