

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 790

Introduced by Assembly Members Furutani and Carter

February 17, 2011

An act to add Sections 52372.7 and 52372.8 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 790, as amended, Furutani. Pupil instruction: ~~linked learning~~. *Multiple Pathway Pilot Program.*

(1) Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop, in conjunction with specified persons and entities, a report that explores the feasibility of expanding and establishing career multiple pathway programs, as defined, in California.

This bill would establish the Multiple Pathway Pilot Program to be administered by the State Department of Education according to specified requirements for the purpose of implementing districtwide multiple pathway learning approaches in all participating school districts. The bill would authorize a school district that maintains grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to apply to the Superintendent to operate a pilot program. The bill would require the department to review these applications and would authorize the Superintendent to initially approve up to 20 applications. The bill would require this application review and approval to be conducted on a competitive basis with consideration given to specified factors. The bill would require the Superintendent to transmit a report to the Legislature and the Governor by January 18, 2018, that makes specified evaluations and recommendations.

(2) Existing law authorizes the governing board of a school district or a county board of education, on a districtwide or countywide basis or on behalf of one or more of its schools or programs, after a public hearing on the matter, to request the State Board of Education to waive all or part of any statute in the Education Code or any regulation adopted by the state board that implements a provision of that code, except as specified.

This bill would authorize the Superintendent, upon application of a school district and for the operation of a multiple pathway program, to waive any provisions of the Education Code, other than those specified.

~~Existing law establishes the system of public elementary and secondary schools in this state, and provides for the establishment of the local educational agencies, including school districts, that establish and operate the schools and provide instruction to pupils throughout the state.~~

~~This bill would express a finding and declaration of the Legislature relating to the educational approach known as linked learning, and would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would help expand and enhance the delivery of linked learning in California’s public elementary and secondary schools.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. 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) California is at a critical crossroads in terms of the
- 4 challenges it faces in reforming its public high school system.
- 5 (b) California is facing an unprecedented state funding gap and
- 6 will face continued fiscal problems in the future if it does not
- 7 produce an educated and career ready workforce.
- 8 (c) California must lead efforts to improve graduation rates,
- 9 close achievement and opportunity gaps, and prepare all pupils
- 10 for success in pursuing both living-wage careers and a variety of
- 11 postsecondary learning experiences.
- 12 (d) California must embrace new, innovative approaches to
- 13 educational transformation that are likely to lead to high successful

1 *outcomes for our pupils, families, communities, and local and state*
2 *economies.*

3 *(e) The multiple pathway approach is one of the most promising*
4 *high school transformational strategies and can be expanded to*
5 *play a pivotal role in enabling all of our pupils to be well prepared*
6 *for life and workforce demands in a 21st century global economy*
7 *and society.*

8 *SEC. 2. Section 52372.7 is added to the Education Code, to*
9 *read:*

10 *52372.7. (a) The Multiple Pathway Pilot Program is hereby*
11 *established for the purpose of implementing districtwide multiple*
12 *pathway learning approaches in all participating school districts.*

13 *(b) The pilot program shall be administered by the department*
14 *and shall contain all of the following requirements:*

15 *(1) Each participating school district shall incorporate*
16 *small-sized schools and smaller groupings of pupils within new*
17 *and existing high schools.*

18 *(2) Rigorous multiple pathway programs of study shall be*
19 *implemented that guide pupils through course sequences leading*
20 *to mastery of standards, high school graduation, and transition*
21 *to postsecondary education or employment. These programs of*
22 *study shall include career technical education courses as defined*
23 *by the California State Plan for Career Technical Education.*

24 *(3) Policies and agreements shall be adopted by participating*
25 *school districts that promote concurrent enrollment and dual credit*
26 *with community colleges and universities.*

27 *(4) Problem-based instructional methodologies, inquiry learning*
28 *approaches, and applied learning strategies shall be adopted*
29 *within all subject areas.*

30 *(5) Pupil progress through high school shall be determined by*
31 *mastery of grade-level standards-based performance benchmarks*
32 *developed by the participating school district.*

33 *(6) Multiple pathway programs shall be implemented by*
34 *participating school districts within the district's existing state*
35 *and local resources.*

36 *(7) Participating school districts shall involve local business,*
37 *labor, parent, and community partners to advise the district on*
38 *the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of the*
39 *pilot program.*

1 (8) *Participating school districts shall be eligible for waivers*
 2 *pursuant to Section 52372.8 to more efficiently operate and adapt*
 3 *to the needs of pupils and communities.*

4 (9) *Participating school districts shall receive priority for*
 5 *appropriate competitive grant funding distributed by the*
 6 *department.*

7 (c) (1) *A school district that maintains grades 9 to 12, inclusive,*
 8 *may apply to the Superintendent to operate a Multiple Pathway*
 9 *Pilot Program in accordance with this section. The department*
 10 *shall review these applications and the Superintendent may initially*
 11 *approve up to 20 applications, and may approve additional*
 12 *applications on an annual basis thereafter.*

13 (2) *The review and approval of applications pursuant to*
 14 *paragraph (1) shall be conducted on a competitive basis and*
 15 *consideration shall be given to factors related to the geographic*
 16 *diversity, type, and size of a school district, and the extent to which*
 17 *a school district’s pilot program would receive financial and*
 18 *in-kind support from the business and civic community or funding*
 19 *from government or foundation grants.*

20 (d) *On or before January 18, 2018, the Superintendent shall*
 21 *transmit a report to the Legislature and the Governor that*
 22 *documents an independent evaluation of the costs and merits of*
 23 *the pilot program, and contains the Superintendent’s*
 24 *recommendations regarding the need for additional statutory*
 25 *changes to facilitate the statewide expansion of the Multiple*
 26 *Pathway Pilot Program.*

27 (e) *The Superintendent may develop regulations necessary to*
 28 *implement the provisions of this section.*

29 SEC. 3. *Section 52372.8 is added to the Education Code, to*
 30 *read:*

31 52372.8. *For the operation of a multiple pathway program, as*
 32 *defined in Section 52372.5, the Superintendent may, upon*
 33 *application of a school district, waive any provisions of this code*
 34 *other than those relating to earthquake safety and the provisions*
 35 *of this chapter.*

36 ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that linked~~
 37 ~~learning is an educational approach that makes learning exciting~~
 38 ~~and challenging by connecting academic study with real-world~~
 39 ~~experience in a wide range of fields. It is the intent of the~~
 40 ~~Legislature to enact legislation that would help expand and enhance~~

- 1 ~~the delivery of linked learning in California's public elementary~~
- 2 ~~and secondary schools.~~

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