

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1315

Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani

February 18, 2011

~~An act relating to postsecondary education.~~ *An act to add and repeal Chapter 20 (commencing with Section 11900) of Part 7 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, relating to education.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1315, as amended, Furutani. ~~Postsecondary education: partnerships.~~ *Education: Gateway Demonstration Project.*

Existing law provides that certain agencies and educational entities are to make various reports or certifications or to submit information to specified entities or agencies. These reports, certifications, and submittals encompass numerous areas of the Education Code.

This bill would create the Gateway Council comprised of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, and the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, or their designees.

The bill would require individual demonstration projects to focus on developing models for improving the transition of individuals with weak basic skills to postsecondary education that provides opportunities for employment in high-demand fields where there is career advancement potential, as well as perform specified functions relating to this goal. The council would be required to identify state and federal resources, as well as potential philanthropic support, to fund gateway demonstration projects, develop a request for proposal process to fund projects in different geographic areas of the state, provide project

oversight and report outcomes of the projects. The council would have various specific duties including developing a request for application to participate process no later than April 15, 2012, and funding at least 3 demonstration project sites no later than September 2012. The bill would require the council to submit a report to the Legislature by January 15, 2016, on the outcomes of the demonstration project, and make the report provision inoperative on January 15, 2020.

This bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2017, unless a later enacted statute enacted on or before January 1, 2017 deletes or extends that date.

~~Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state:~~

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to develop demonstration partnerships between adult education programs and the California Community Colleges to create “gateway centers” that will accelerate the progress of developing basic skills of students so that they will be successful students and obtain well-paying jobs after graduation:~~

~~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. Chapter 20 (commencing with Section 11900) is
2 added to Part 7 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, to
3 read:

4
5 CHAPTER 20. GATEWAY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

6
7 11900. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
8 following:

9 (1) A college degree or industry-recognized vocational
10 certificate is the principal pathway to personal economic security.

11 (2) Remedial English and mathematics, including
12 English-as-a-second-language programs, are the gateway to
13 college and skills training for many Californians.

14 (3) A range of basic skills programs are offered by the State
15 Department of Education and the California Community Colleges,

1 *but historically these programs have not been well connected or*
2 *coordinated, and current institutional practices impede the effective*
3 *transition of students across systems from basic skills courses into*
4 *postsecondary education and training programs.*

5 *(4) Many adult learners make no or minimal progress with only*
6 *an extremely small percentage attaining a postsecondary certificate*
7 *or degree or transferring to a four-year college.*

8 *(5) Recent budget cutbacks and changes to categorical program*
9 *funding have resulted in decreased funding for basic skills*
10 *offerings, necessitating a reexamination of California's basic skills*
11 *system and how it meets the needs of all Californians, especially*
12 *for low-skilled adult learners and underrepresented students of*
13 *color.*

14 *(6) As policymakers consider broad, statewide reform, local*
15 *service providers are best equipped to develop and identify effective*
16 *program models to accelerate student progress, improve program*
17 *outcomes, and serve greater numbers of students with limited*
18 *funding.*

19 *(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to create the Gateway*
20 *Demonstration Project to leverage multiple funding streams and*
21 *promote innovative and successful practices to improve the*
22 *transition of adult learners into entry-level degree or certificate*
23 *training programs that are linked to employment, as a building*
24 *block toward wider reform of the delivery of adult basic education*
25 *services in California. The project would pilot innovative models*
26 *to create seamless transitions across adult education,*
27 *postsecondary education, and employment. Demonstration sites*
28 *would develop and test models that improve alignment, accelerate*
29 *student progress, leverage resources across basic skills providers,*
30 *deliver high-quality curriculum and instruction, provide student*
31 *support services and educator professional development, and lead*
32 *to improved student education and employment outcomes. These*
33 *models would build upon and leverage the curricula and faculty*
34 *strengths of the State Department of Education's adult education*
35 *programs and the California Community Colleges' programs to*
36 *meet the needs of students from low-income and underserved*
37 *communities.*

38 *11901. (a) The Gateway Council is created to identify state*
39 *and federal resources, as well as potential philanthropic support,*
40 *to fund gateway demonstration projects, develop a request for*

1 *proposal process to fund projects in different geographic areas of*
2 *the state, provide project oversight and report outcomes. The*
3 *Gateway Council shall be comprised of the Superintendent of*
4 *Public Instruction, the Chancellor of the California Community*
5 *Colleges, and the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development,*
6 *or their designees. The Gateway Council shall do all of the*
7 *following:*

8 *(1) Identify funding for demonstration projects from sources*
9 *such as, but not limited to, the federal Workforce Investment Act,*
10 *the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act*
11 *of 2006, career technical education funds, community college and*
12 *adult education funds, and other grant or philanthropic sources.*

13 *(2) Develop a request for application to participate in the*
14 *demonstration project no later than April 15, 2012.*

15 *(3) Fund a minimum of three demonstration project sites*
16 *beginning no later than September 2012.*

17 *(4) Prepare a final report or evaluation to the Legislature as*
18 *specified in subdivision (c).*

19 *(b) Gateway demonstration projects shall focus on developing*
20 *models for improving the transition of individuals with weak basic*
21 *skills to postsecondary education that provides opportunities for*
22 *employment in high-demand fields where there is career*
23 *advancement potential. Gateway demonstration projects shall do*
24 *all of the following:*

25 *(1) Be jointly designed by local and regional partners including*
26 *adult education and community college program providers and*
27 *other stakeholders with input from business and industry.*

28 *(2) Work together to align or redesign regional assessment*
29 *systems to provide more consistent and improved diagnostic*
30 *services to identify needs of adult students and connect them to*
31 *learning strategies that prepare them for success in academic and*
32 *career technical courses.*

33 *(3) Utilize evidence-based practices, such as contextualized*
34 *teaching, accelerated coursework, customized and modularized*
35 *instruction, peer group support, and remediation, provided while*
36 *the student is concurrently enrolled in credit-bearing college work.*

37 *(4) Develop program options that move adult learners toward*
38 *postsecondary credentials, including as concurrent enrollment in*
39 *adult education and community college, joint instructional*
40 *offerings, and team teaching.*

1 (5) Equip learners with the workplace competencies and
2 college-ready skills to prepare them for certificate and degree
3 programs.

4 (6) Provide a range of student support services, such as
5 academic tutoring, counseling, and financial aid.

6 (7) Offer professional development opportunities and incentives
7 to gateway instructors to enhance their pedagogical skills and
8 instruction practices.

9 (8) Report on program outcomes for the purpose of continuous
10 program improvement and program evaluation.

11 (9) Provide matching funds from local workforce investment
12 boards, community-based organizations, regional industry
13 partners, philanthropic or other sources.

14 (c) The Gateway Council shall submit a final report to the
15 Legislature by January 15, 2016, on the outcomes of the
16 demonstration project. Based on demonstration project outcomes
17 and an analysis of policy and institutional barriers to wider
18 implementation, the council shall make recommendations to the
19 Legislature regarding how the State Department of Education and
20 the California Community Colleges can align institutions and
21 programs more effectively, increase the quality of instruction, and
22 improve student outcomes, particularly for underrepresented
23 students of color.

24 (d) This chapter is repealed on January 1, 2017, unless a later
25 enacted statute enacted on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or
26 extends that date.

27 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
28 ~~legislation to develop demonstration partnerships between adult~~
29 ~~education programs and the California Community Colleges to~~
30 ~~create “gateway centers” that will accelerate the progress of~~
31 ~~developing basic skills of students so that they will be successful~~
32 ~~students and obtain well-paying jobs after graduation.~~