Introduced by Assembly Member Bonta

January 14, 2013

An act to add Section 51221.2 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 123, as introduced, Bonta. Pupil instruction: social sciences: farm labor movement: Filipinos. Existing law requires a school district, as part of its adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer courses in specified areas of study, including, among others, social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology.

This bill would require a school district, in providing instruction in the area of social sciences, to include instruction on the contributions of Filipino Americans to the farm labor movement in California, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

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

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
(1) All pupils who learn about the United Farm Workers should learn about the influence of all major groups involved in the movement to fully understand this important part of California history.
(2) According to a 2010 report by the United States Census Bureau, there are currently over 1.1 million Filipino Americans in California. Filipino Americans comprise the second and third largest Asian populations within California and the United States, respectively.
(3) It is important that pupils learn about the influence of Filipino Americans and their culture on the history of California. The formation and continuing work of the United Farm Workers have had an enormous impact on helping to stop the suppression and oppression of farm workers and the general working public on a national scale.
(4) Unfortunately, the story of how the Filipino American labor leaders and workers helped create the United Farm Workers has been greatly ignored by national and international media.
(b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to help emphasize the important role of Filipino Americans in the history of the state and to help recognize those noteworthy historical Filipino American figures who never received proper credit for their work with the United Farm Workers.

SEC. 2. Section 51221.2 is added to the Education Code, to read:
51221.2. Instruction in the area of social sciences, as required pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51220, shall include instruction on the contributions of Filipino Americans to the farm labor movement in California.

SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.