

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 514

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonta

February 20, 2013

An act relating to school safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 514, as introduced, Bonta. School safety: the Safe Schools for Safe Learning Act of 2013.

Existing law establishes various laws relating to school safety and violence prevention, and, among other things, requires each school district and county office of education to develop a comprehensive school safety plan for schools operating kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

This bill would express the Legislature's intent to enact legislation that would be known as the Safe Schools for Safe Learning Act of 2013, which would give pupils from the 18th Assembly District a strong voice in developing new strategies for school safety. The bill would also express various findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to school safety.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
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:

1 (a) Child safety should be a priority in our state, and we, as the
2 state Legislature, should ensure that our children are kept safe from
3 any form of violence, especially while children are in school.

4 (b) Our children have the talent and capacity for greatness, if
5 given the opportunity to thrive and grow in a healthy environment.

6 (c) Unfortunately, violence has become a fact of life for many
7 pupils in the 18th Assembly District. For example, Oakland
8 suffered from 131 homicides in 2012. Many children suffer
9 complications from growing up in a violent environment, including
10 depression and posttraumatic stress disorder, which makes it more
11 difficult to become an engaged and productive pupil at school.

12 (d) Assembly Member Bonta has asked pupils to submit their
13 responses to the question, “What would make you feel safer at
14 school?” The Safe Schools for Safe Learning Act of 2013 will be
15 based on the winning response to that question.

16 (e) We need to create safe and supportive school environments
17 where each child is able to thrive. A school is not just a place for
18 perfunctory instruction. It is also the place where a child learns
19 about humanity, family, and community, free from violence and
20 fear.

21 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
22 that would be known as the Safe Schools for Safe Learning Act
23 of 2013, which would give pupils from the 18th Assembly District
24 a strong voice in developing new strategies for school safety.