

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 543

Introduced by Assembly Member Campos

February 20, 2013

An act to add Section 21097 to the Public Resources Code, relating to environmental quality.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 543, as amended, Campos. California Environmental Quality Act: translation.

Existing law, the California Environmental Quality Act (~~CEQA~~), referred to as *CEQA*, requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.

This bill would require a lead agency to translate ~~any notice, document, or executive summary required by the act~~ *certain notices required by the act and a summary of any negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report*, when the impacted community has a substantial number of non-English-speaking people, as ~~specified~~ *defined*. By requiring a lead

agency to translate these ~~writings~~ *notices and documents*, this bill would impose 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 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 no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 21097 is added to the Public Resources
2 Code, to read:

3 21097. (a) A lead agency shall translate ~~any notice, document,~~
4 ~~or executive summary required by this division~~ *each of the*
5 *following* when the impacted community has a substantial number
6 of non-English-speaking people, ~~as specified in Section 7296.2 of~~
7 ~~the Government Code.~~ *people:*

8 (1) *Any notice required pursuant to Section 21080.5, 21083.9,*
9 *21092, 21152, or 21161.*

10 (2) *A summary of any negative declaration, mitigated negative*
11 *declaration, or environmental impact report.*

12 (b) *For the purposes of this section, “substantial number of*
13 *non-English-speaking people” means members of a group who*
14 *either do not speak English or who are unable to effectively*
15 *communicate in English because it is not their native language,*
16 *and who comprise 5 percent or more of the people who may be*
17 *affected by the project.*

18 ~~SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that~~
19 ~~this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to~~
20 ~~local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made~~

1 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
2 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

3 *SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to*
4 *Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because*
5 *a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service*
6 *charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or*
7 *level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section*
8 *17556 of the Government Code.*

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