

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 700**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez**

February 21, 2013

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An act to amend Sections 51220 and 51225.3 of, and to add Section 51226.8 to, the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 700, as introduced, Gomez. Pupil instruction: social sciences: voter education.

(1) Existing law requires instruction in social sciences for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to provide a foundation for understanding the history, resources, development, and government of California and the United States of America. Existing law also specifies coursework to be completed by pupils in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a high school diploma of graduation, including a one-semester course in American government and civics.

This bill, commencing with the 2014–15 school year, would require instruction in the social sciences in grade 8 and in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, and the one-semester course in American government and civics that is required for high school graduation, to include a voter education component providing instruction in how to register and cast votes in local, state, and federal elections, and how to use the voter information pamphlet and other materials to become an informed voter. To the extent that these requirements would impose new duties on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would require the State Department of Education, on or before July 1, 2014, to develop and adopt a model curriculum framework for

the voter education component in social studies classes to be implemented, pursuant to the bill, commencing with the 2014–15 school year.

(2) 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.

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 51220 of the Education Code is amended  
2 to read:  
3 51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,  
4 inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:  
5 (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for  
6 literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,  
7 listening, and speaking.  
8 (b) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of  
9 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,  
10 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the  
11 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding  
12 the history, resources, development, and government of California  
13 and the United States of America; instruction in our American  
14 legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice  
15 systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal  
16 and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; *in grade 8*  
17 *and in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, commencing with the*  
18 *2014–15 school year, a voter education component providing*  
19 *instruction in how to register and cast votes in local, state, and*  
20 *federal elections, and how to use the voter information pamphlet*  
21 *and other materials to become an informed voter; the development*  
22 *of the American economic system, including the role of the*  
23 *entrepreneur and labor; the relations of persons to their human and*  
24 *natural environment; eastern and western cultures and civilizations;*  
25 *human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the*

1 inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust, and  
2 contemporary issues.

3 (c) Foreign language or languages, beginning not later than  
4 grade 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,  
5 reading, and writing the particular language.

6 (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities  
7 that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as  
8 required by Section 51222.

9 (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with  
10 emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific  
11 investigation and on the place of humans in ecological systems,  
12 and with appropriate applications of the interrelation and  
13 interdependence of the sciences.

14 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop  
15 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into  
16 problem-solving procedures.

17 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,  
18 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic  
19 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

20 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer  
21 and homemaking education, industrial arts, general business  
22 education, or general agriculture.

23 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the  
24 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the  
25 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the  
26 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant  
27 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.

28 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a  
29 knowledge of the provisions of the Vehicle Code and other laws  
30 of this state relating to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper  
31 acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation  
32 of the causes, seriousness and consequences of traffic accidents,  
33 and to develop the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe  
34 operation of motor vehicles. A course in automobile driver  
35 education shall include education in the safe operation of  
36 motorcycles.

37 (k) Other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board.

38 SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as amended  
39 by Section 3 of Chapter 621 of the Statutes of 2011, is amended  
40 to read:

1 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while  
2 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of  
3 graduation from high school:

4 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
5 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
6 otherwise specified:

7 (A) Three courses in English.

8 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

9 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
10 sciences.

11 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
12 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
13 one-semester course in American government and civics, *including,*  
14 *commencing with the 2014–15 school year, a voter education*  
15 *component providing instruction in how to register and cast votes*  
16 *in local, state, and federal elections, and how to use the voter*  
17 *information pamphlet and other materials to become an informed*  
18 *voter; and a one-semester course in economics.*

19 (E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,  
20 or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, career technical  
21 education.

22 (i) For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this  
23 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
24 deemed a course in foreign language.

25 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career  
26 technical education” means a course in a district-operated career  
27 technical education program that is aligned to the career technical  
28 model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state  
29 board, including courses through a regional occupational center  
30 or program operated by a county superintendent of schools or  
31 pursuant to a joint powers agreement.

32 (iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school  
33 district that currently does not offer career technical education  
34 courses to start new career technical education programs for  
35 purposes of this section.

36 (iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to  
37 allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement  
38 imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school  
39 district or county office of education, ~~prior to~~ *before* offering that  
40 alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the

1 public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of  
2 all of the following:

3 (I) The intent to offer career technical education courses to fulfill  
4 the graduation requirement specified in this subparagraph.

5 (II) The impact that offering career technical education courses,  
6 pursuant to this subparagraph, will have on the availability of  
7 courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the  
8 California State University and the University of California, and  
9 whether the career technical education courses to be offered  
10 pursuant to this subparagraph are approved to satisfy those  
11 eligibility requirements. If a school district elects to allow a career  
12 technical education course to satisfy the requirement imposed by  
13 this subparagraph, the school district shall comply with subdivision  
14 (m) of Section 48980.

15 (III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation  
16 requirements of the school district or county office of education,  
17 and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California  
18 State University and the University of California.

19 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been  
20 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

21 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing  
22 board of the school district.

23 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,  
24 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means  
25 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may  
26 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,  
27 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
28 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
29 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
30 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
31 postsecondary *educational* institution. Requirements for graduation  
32 and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed  
33 course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the  
34 public.

35 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district shall exempt  
36 a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements  
37 adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition  
38 to the statewide coursework requirements specified in this section  
39 if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the  
40 district from another school district or between high schools within

1 the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is  
2 reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time  
3 to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for  
4 foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A school district shall  
5 notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an exemption pursuant  
6 to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the person holding the  
7 right to make educational decisions for the pupil, if any of the  
8 requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability to gain  
9 admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall  
10 provide information about transfer opportunities available through  
11 the California Community Colleges.

12 (d) On or before July 1, 2017, the department shall submit a  
13 comprehensive report to the appropriate policy committees of the  
14 Legislature on the addition of career technical education courses  
15 to satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of  
16 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), including, but not limited to, the  
17 following information:

18 (1) A comparison of the pupil enrollment in career technical  
19 education courses, foreign language courses, and visual and  
20 performing arts courses for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,  
21 inclusive, to the pupil enrollment in career technical education  
22 courses, foreign language courses, and visual and performing arts  
23 courses for the 2012–13 to 2016–17 school years, inclusive.

24 (2) The reasons, reported by school districts, that pupils give  
25 for choosing to enroll in a career technical education course to  
26 satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph  
27 (1) of subdivision (a).

28 (3) The type and number of career technical education courses  
29 that were conducted for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,  
30 inclusive, compared to the type and number of career technical  
31 education courses that were conducted for the 2012–13 to 2016–17  
32 school years, inclusive.

33 (4) The number of career technical education courses that  
34 satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the  
35 University of California or the California State University.

36 (5) The extent to which the career technical education courses  
37 chosen by pupils are aligned with the California Career Technical  
38 Education Standards, and prepare pupils for employment, advanced  
39 training, and postsecondary education.

1 (6) The number of career technical education courses that also  
2 satisfy the visual and performing arts requirement, and the number  
3 of career technical education courses that also satisfy the foreign  
4 language requirement.

5 (7) Annual pupil dropout and graduation rates for the 2011–12  
6 to 2014–15 school years, inclusive.

7 (e) For purposes of completing the report described in  
8 subdivision (d), the Superintendent may use existing state resources  
9 and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not available or  
10 sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept grants,  
11 and receive donations and other financial support from public or  
12 private sources for purposes of this section.

13 (f) For purposes of completing the report described in  
14 subdivision (d), the Superintendent may accept support, including,  
15 but not limited to, financial and technical support, from high school  
16 reform advocates, teachers, chamber organizations, industry  
17 representatives, research centers, parents, and pupils.

18 (g) This section shall become inoperative on the earlier of the  
19 following two dates:

20 (1) On July 1, immediately following the first fiscal year after  
21 the enactment of the act that adds this paragraph in which the  
22 number of career technical education courses that, as determined  
23 by the department, satisfy the foreign language requirement for  
24 admission to the California State University and the University of  
25 California is at least twice the number of career technical education  
26 courses that meet these admission requirements as of January 1,  
27 2012. This section shall be repealed on the following January 1,  
28 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before  
29 that date, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes  
30 inoperative and is repealed. It is the intent of the Legislature that  
31 new career technical education courses that satisfy the foreign  
32 language requirement for admission to the California State  
33 University and the University of California focus on world  
34 languages aligned with career preparation, emphasizing real-world  
35 application and technical content in related career and technical  
36 education courses.

37 (2) On July 1, 2017, and, as of January 1, 2018, is repealed,  
38 unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before  
39 January 1, 2018, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes  
40 inoperative and is repealed.

1 SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as added by  
2 Section 4 of Chapter 621 of the Statutes of 2011, is amended to  
3 read:

4 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while  
5 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of  
6 graduation from high school:

7 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
8 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
9 otherwise specified:

10 (A) Three courses in English.

11 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

12 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
13 sciences.

14 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
15 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
16 one-semester course in American government and civics, *including,*  
17 *commencing with the 2014–15 school year, a voter education*  
18 *component providing instruction in how to register and cast votes*  
19 *in local, state, and federal elections, and how to use the voter*  
20 *information pamphlet and other materials to become an informed*  
21 *voter*; and a one-semester course in economics.

22 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.  
23 For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this  
24 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
25 deemed a course in foreign language.

26 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been  
27 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

28 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing  
29 board of the school district.

30 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,  
31 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means  
32 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may  
33 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,  
34 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
35 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
36 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
37 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
38 postsecondary *educational* institution. Requirements for graduation  
39 and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed



1 course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the  
2 public.

3 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district shall exempt  
4 a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements  
5 adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition  
6 to the statewide coursework requirements specified in this section  
7 if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the  
8 district from another school district or between high schools within  
9 the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is  
10 reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time  
11 to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for  
12 foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A school district shall  
13 notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an exemption pursuant  
14 to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the person holding the  
15 right to make educational decisions for the pupil, if any of the  
16 requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability to gain  
17 admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall  
18 provide information about transfer opportunities available through  
19 the California Community Colleges.

20 (d) If a pupil completed a career technical education course that  
21 met the requirements of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of  
22 subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding  
23 this section, ~~prior to~~ *before* the inoperative date of that section,  
24 that course shall be deemed to fulfill the requirements of  
25 subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of this section.

26 (e) This section shall become operative upon the date that  
27 Section 51225.3, as amended by the act adding this section,  
28 becomes inoperative.

29 SEC. 4. Section 51226.8 is added to the Education Code, to  
30 read:

31 51226.8. On or before July 1, 2014, the department shall  
32 develop and adopt a model curriculum framework for a voter  
33 education component in social studies classes to be implemented  
34 commencing with the 2014–15 school year in accordance with  
35 subdivision (b) of Section 51220 and subparagraph (D) of  
36 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3.

37 SEC. 5. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
38 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
39 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.

O