

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1750**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo**

February 14, 2014

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An act relating to pupil instruction, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1750, as introduced, Alejo. Pupil instruction: ethnic studies.

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 social sciences. Existing law establishes the Instructional Quality Commission and requires the commission to, among other things, recommend curriculum frameworks to the State Board of Education.

This bill would require the commission to identify model programs, standards, and curricula relating to ethnic studies at the high school level. The bill would require the commission, on or before January 1, 2016, to prepare and submit a report that, among other things, identifies the best practices and standards for establishing and implementing ethnic studies in public high schools, to the Governor and the Legislature, and to make the report available on the State Department of Education's Internet Web site.

This bill would appropriate \$125,000 to the State Department of Education for purposes of funding the report.

The funds appropriated by this bill would be applied toward the minimum funding requirements for school districts and community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Instructional Quality Commission shall  
2 identify model programs, standards, and curricula relating to ethnic  
3 studies at the high school level. The commission shall also identify  
4 factors to train teachers to work effectively with diverse pupils  
5 and families and to encourage respect for diversity in the  
6 classroom.
- 7 (b) The commission shall prepare a report that, at minimum,  
8 does all of the following:
- 9 (1) Reviews the most current research on ethnic studies for  
10 secondary education.
- 11 (2) Reviews and evaluates existing standards, curricula,  
12 programs, and training regarding ethnic studies for secondary  
13 education.
- 14 (3) Identifies the best practices and standards for establishing  
15 and implementing ethnic studies in public high schools.
- 16 (4) Assesses the adequacy of current ethnic studies courses in  
17 California public high schools.
- 18 (5) Makes recommendations for establishing a “California  
19 Cultures” multicultural or ethnic studies course that can be  
20 incorporated into existing high school curriculum.
- 21 (c) The commission shall complete and submit the report to the  
22 Governor and the Legislature on or before January 1, 2016. The  
23 report shall also be made available to the public on the State  
24 Department of Education’s Internet Web site.
- 25 (d) The commission may consult with experts on ethnic studies,  
26 multiculturalism, or diversity including, but not limited to, all of  
27 the following:
- 28 (1) Representatives from the State Department of Education.  
29 (2) Representatives from the University of California.  
30 (3) Representatives from the California State University.  
31 (4) Academic faculty, researchers, and scientists with  
32 backgrounds in ethnic studies, American studies, history, education,  
33 psychology, or medicine.  
34 (5) Representatives from community-based organizations  
35 concerned with pupil issues or civil rights.

1 (6) Representatives from professional associations relating to  
2 ethnic studies.

3 (7) Educators in secondary education.

4 (8) Public school board members with expertise in multicultural  
5 or ethnic studies.

6 (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (d), this act shall not  
7 apply to the University of California, except to the extent that the  
8 Regents of the University of California, by appropriate resolution,  
9 make this section applicable.

10 (f) (1) The report to be submitted pursuant to this section shall  
11 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government  
12 Code.

13 (2) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this  
14 section is repealed on January 1, 2019.

15 SEC. 2. The sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars  
16 (\$125,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the  
17 State Department of Education for the purpose of funding the  
18 report required pursuant to Section 1 of this act.