

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 27, 2014
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 30, 2014
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1057

Introduced by Senator Corbett

February 18, 2014

An act to add Section 60605.84 to the Education Code, relating to pupil curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1057, as amended, Corbett. Pupil curriculum: history-social science content standards.

Existing law required the State Board of Education, not later than November 1, 1998, to adopt statewide academically rigorous content standards in the core curriculum area of history-social science.

This bill would require the state board, on or before July 30, ~~2016~~ 2018, to adopt, reject, or modify history-social science content standards in accordance with specified procedures. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a group of history-social science experts, as specified, and, with input from the group, would require the Superintendent, on or before March 30, ~~2016~~ 2018, to recommend history-social science content standards to the state board. The bill would require the Superintendent and the state board, by October 1, ~~2016~~ 2018, to report certain information to the Governor and appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature. The bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to history-social science content standards.

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

3 (a) In contrast to other subject areas, the state's 16-year-old
4 history-social science content standards were developed in 1998
5 and have failed to keep up with modern research and scholarship.

6 (b) There is nothing in current law that requires history-social
7 science content standards to be reviewed and updated.

8 (c) California has long been home to many diverse cultures. As
9 this diversity has grown, there is a greater need than ever before
10 for understanding the foundational ideas and philosophy of our
11 country and the world.

12 (d) California's current kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive,
13 history-social science textbooks contain outdated and inaccurate
14 information, and reflect negatively on members of several groups,
15 in violation of existing law. Hinduism, for instance, is portrayed
16 in an inequitable manner, and Hindus are depicted negatively and
17 as implicitly inferior to other religious groups.

18 (e) Existing law prohibits the State Board of Education from
19 adopting any instructional materials for use in schools that contain
20 any matter reflecting adversely upon persons on the basis of race
21 or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual
22 orientation.

23 (f) The history-social science content standards therefore must
24 be rectified to address concerns of accuracy, rigorous scholarship,
25 equality, diversity, religious and cultural sensitivity, and adherence
26 to existing law. Furthermore, the standards should be updated to
27 ensure that they are consistent with changes to other subjects in
28 California's education system.

29 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that the revised kindergarten
30 to grade 12, inclusive, history-social science content standards
31 must be equitable in their coverage and depiction of any world
32 religion, ethnicity, race, culture, nationality, gender, sexual
33 orientation, or disability status and that no group ~~shall~~ *must* be
34 portrayed negatively or as inferior based on any of these
35 characteristics.

1 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that the process to update
2 the kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, history-social science
3 content standards be fair, transparent, and inclusive.

4 (i) It is the intent of the Legislature that the expert group created
5 pursuant to Senate Bill 1057-~~at~~ of the 2013–14 Regular Session
6 must be a body that reflects the diversity of the state, including
7 groups or individuals who represent the perspectives of all major
8 religions, ethnicities, races, cultures, genders, sexual orientations,
9 and disability statuses.

10 (j) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a schedule and
11 process for the review and revision, as necessary, of the state’s
12 history-social science content standards.

13 SEC. 2. Section 60605.84 is added to the Education Code,
14 immediately following Section 60605.8, to read:

15 60605.84. (a) The state board shall adopt history-social science
16 content standards pursuant to the following requirements:

17 (1) The Superintendent, in consultation with the state board,
18 shall convene a group of history-social science experts. The
19 Superintendent shall ensure that the members of the group include,
20 but are not limited to, individuals who are elementary and
21 secondary history-social science teachers, schoolsite principals,
22 school district or county office of education administrators, and
23 university professors, ~~scholars of all major religious, ethnic, racial,~~
24 ~~and cultural groups, and individuals who represent the perspectives~~
25 ~~of all major religious, ethnic, racial, and cultural groups, genders,~~
26 ~~sexual orientations, and disability statuses. A majority of the group~~
27 ~~of experts convened pursuant to this paragraph shall be~~
28 ~~history-social science teachers.~~

29 (2) *The group of experts convened pursuant to paragraph (1)*
30 *shall make a good faith effort to solicit and take into consideration*
31 *input from scholars of all major religious, ethnic, racial, and*
32 *cultural groups and individuals who represent the perspectives of*
33 *all major religious, ethnic, racial, and cultural groups, genders,*
34 *sexual orientations, and disability statuses.*

35 ~~(2)~~

36 (3) The Superintendent shall consider for inclusion in the
37 history-social science content standards all topics that are required
38 to be considered for inclusion pursuant to the provisions of this
39 code.

40 ~~(3)~~

1 (4) The Superintendent, with input from the group convened
2 pursuant to paragraph (1), shall recommend history-social science
3 content standards for adoption to the state board.

4 ~~(4)~~

5 (5) The Superintendent shall hold a minimum of two public
6 meetings pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article
7 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of
8 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) in order for the
9 public to provide input on the history-social science content
10 standards that would be recommended pursuant to paragraph (1).

11 ~~(5)~~

12 (6) The Superintendent shall present the recommended
13 history-social science content standards to the state board on or
14 before March 30, ~~2016~~ 2018.

15 ~~(6)~~

16 (7) On or before July 30, ~~2016~~ 2018, the state board shall adopt,
17 reject, or modify the history-social science content standards
18 presented by the Superintendent.

19 ~~(7)~~

20 (8) If the state board modifies the history-social science content
21 standards presented by the Superintendent, the state board shall
22 provide written reasons for its modifications in a public meeting.
23 The state board shall adopt its modifications to the history-social
24 science content standards at a subsequent public meeting held no
25 later than July 30, ~~2016~~ 2018. The public meetings required by
26 this paragraph shall be held pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open
27 Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of
28 Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
29 Code).

30 (b) (1) On or before October 1, ~~2016~~ 2018, the Superintendent
31 and the state board shall present to the Governor and the
32 appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature a
33 schedule and implementation plan for integrating the history-social
34 science content standards adopted pursuant to this section into the
35 state educational system.

36 (2) The requirement for submitting the report required pursuant
37 to this subdivision is inoperative on October 1, ~~2020~~ 2022, pursuant
38 to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

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