

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 101

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

January 8, 2015

~~An act to amend Section 33500 of the Education Code, relating to state educational programs. An act to add Section 51226.7 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 101, as amended, Alejo. ~~State educational programs: educational advisory bodies.~~ *Pupil instruction: ethnic studies.*

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include, among other subjects, the social sciences. Existing law requires the State Board of Education, with the assistance of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to establish a list of textbooks and other instructional materials that highlight the contributions of minorities in the development of California and the United States.

This bill would require the Superintendent to oversee the development of, and the board to adopt, a model curriculum framework, professional development standards, and other support systems to ensure quality courses in ethnic studies. The bill would require the Superintendent to establish an Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee and would require the committee to advise, assist, and make recommendations to the board about programs, professional development, curriculum content, and other issues related to ethnic studies. The bill would require the Superintendent, on or before June 30, 2016, to submit to the board a plan to fully implement these requirements. The bill would, beginning the school year following the adoption of the model curriculum, require

each school district maintaining any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer, as an elective course in the social sciences, a course of study in ethnic studies based on the model curriculum framework. Because school districts would be required to offer ethnic studies courses, 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.

~~Existing law establishes preschool programs and public and private elementary and secondary schools throughout the state. Existing law also establishes the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to provide guidance and support to local educational agencies and other entities that operate schools and preschool programs, and further authorizes the establishment and operation of numerous educational programs on the state level that are administered by the state board, the department, or other state agencies.~~

~~Existing law expresses the finding and declaration of the Legislature that there is a need to encourage the adoption of new or improved educational ideas, practices, and techniques in solving critical educational problems in preschool, elementary, and secondary schools throughout the state, but that there are a large number of permanent commissions, committees, and councils, some of which have overlapping duties and functions or that have been perpetuated in existence beyond the original need or purpose for which they were created. Existing law expresses the intent of the Legislature to create 3 levels of educational advisory bodies, as specified.~~

~~This bill would make nonsubstantive changes in these provisions.~~

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

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) *The State of California is committed to providing excellent*
2 *educational opportunities to all of its pupils.*

3 (b) *There are 92 languages other than English spoken*
4 *throughout the state, with the primary languages being Arabic,*
5 *Armenian, Cantonese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and*
6 *Vietnamese.*

7 (c) *There is a growing library of academic research that shows*
8 *the importance of culturally meaningful and relevant curriculum.*

9 (d) *Based on the National Education Association (NEA)*
10 *publication, The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies, the*
11 *inclusion of ethnic studies in a curriculum has a positive impact*
12 *on students of color.*

13 (e) *Ethnic studies benefit pupils in observable ways, such as*
14 *pupils becoming more academically engaged, increasing their*
15 *performance on academic tests, improving their graduation rates,*
16 *and developing a sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment.*

17 (f) *The state's educational standards should be guided by core*
18 *values of equity, inclusiveness, and universally high expectations.*

19 (g) *The state is committed to its efforts to provide all pupils with*
20 *excellent educational opportunities, without regard to race, gender,*
21 *ethnicity, nationality, income, sexual orientation, or disability.*

22 (h) *The state is committed to its obligation to ensure its youth*
23 *are college prepared and career ready, while graduating 100*
24 *percent of its pupils.*

25 (i) *The implementation of various ethnic studies courses within*
26 *California's curriculum that are A-G approved, with the objective*
27 *of preparing pupils to be global citizens with an appreciation for*
28 *the contributions of multiple cultures, will close the achievement*
29 *gap, reduce student truancy, increase student enrollment, reduce*
30 *dropout rates, and increase graduation rates.*

31 (j) *The state should support efforts in recruiting and retaining*
32 *teachers who have relevant experience and educational*
33 *background in the study or teaching of ethnic studies.*

34 SEC. 2. *Section 51226.7 is added to the Education Code, to*
35 *read:*

36 51226.7. (a) *The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall*
37 *oversee the development of, and the State Board of Education shall*
38 *adopt, a model curriculum framework, professional development*
39 *standards, and other support systems to ensure quality courses of*
40 *study in ethnic studies through partnerships with universities with*

1 *ethnic studies programs. The model curriculum framework shall*
2 *meet the A-G approval requirements of the Regents of the*
3 *University of California.*

4 *(b) (1) On or before the beginning of the 2016–17 school year,*
5 *the Superintendent shall establish an Ethnic Studies Advisory*
6 *Committee consisting of relevant stakeholders, including, but not*
7 *limited to, students, parents, state personnel, ethnic studies*
8 *scholars, university professors, and teachers with ethnic studies*
9 *experience.*

10 *(2) The Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee shall advise, assist,*
11 *and make recommendations to the board about programs,*
12 *professional development, curriculum content, and other issues*
13 *related to ethnic studies.*

14 *(c) On or before June 30, 2016, the Superintendent shall submit*
15 *to the board a plan to fully implement this section that includes,*
16 *at a minimum, key actions needed to overcome any challenges*
17 *foreseen to implementing this section, time tables, staffing*
18 *responsibilities, and budget requirements.*

19 *(d) Beginning the school year following the adoption of the*
20 *model curriculum framework pursuant to subdivision (a), each*
21 *school district maintaining any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, shall*
22 *offer to all otherwise qualified pupils in those grades, as an elective*
23 *in the social sciences, a course of study in ethnic studies based on*
24 *the model curriculum framework.*

25 *SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
26 *this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to*
27 *local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*
28 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
29 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

30 ~~SECTION 1. Section 33500 of the Education Code is amended~~
31 ~~to read:~~

32 ~~33500. (a) The Legislature finds and declares both of the~~
33 ~~following:~~

34 ~~(1) There is further need to encourage the adoption of new or~~
35 ~~improved educational ideas, practices, and techniques in solving~~
36 ~~critical educational problems in preschool, elementary, and~~
37 ~~secondary schools throughout the state. In recognition of the need~~
38 ~~for the planning and developing of new programs involving a wide~~
39 ~~range of new approaches designed to improve the quality of~~
40 ~~education available in this state, this chapter is expressly enacted~~

1 to foster innovation and create change in education, based on
2 research and proven need. It is the purpose of this chapter to bring
3 purposeful change and experimentation to schools throughout the
4 state, through the use of all available resources of the state.

5 (2) There are in existence a large number of permanent
6 commissions, committees, and councils, some of which have
7 overlapping duties and functions, and some of which have been
8 perpetuated in existence beyond the original need or purpose for
9 which they were created.

10 (b) Therefore, in order to provide a more economical, efficient,
11 and logical structure to educational policymaking, it is the intent
12 of the Legislature to create three levels of educational advisory
13 bodies: educational policy advisory commissions, educational
14 advisory committees, and educational task forces.