

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2015  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 26, 2015  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 101**

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**Introduced by Assembly ~~Member Alejo~~ Members *Alejo, Jones-Sawyer, and Bonta***  
**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Holden)**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Santiago, and Ting*)**

January 8, 2015

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An act to add Section 51226.7 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 101, as amended, Alejo. 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 *state* board to adopt, a model curriculum ~~framework~~, ~~professional development standards~~, *framework* 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 *state* 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 *state* 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.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The State of California is committed to providing excellent
- 4 educational opportunities to all of its pupils.
- 5 (b) There are 92 languages other than English spoken throughout
- 6 the state, with the primary languages being Arabic, Armenian,
- 7 Cantonese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
- 8 (c) There is a growing ~~library~~ *body* of academic research that
- 9 shows the importance of culturally meaningful and relevant
- 10 curriculum.
- 11 (d) Based on the National Education Association (NEA)
- 12 publication, *The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies*,
- 13 the inclusion of ethnic studies in a curriculum has a positive impact
- 14 on ~~students~~ *pupils* of color.
- 15 (e) Ethnic studies benefit pupils in observable ways, such as
- 16 pupils becoming more academically engaged, increasing their
- 17 performance on academic tests, improving their graduation rates,
- 18 and developing a sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment.

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

3 (g) The state is committed to its efforts to provide all pupils  
4 with excellent educational opportunities, without regard to race,  
5 gender, ethnicity, nationality, income, sexual orientation, or  
6 disability.

7 (h) The state is committed to its obligation to ensure its youth  
8 are college prepared and career ready, while graduating 100 percent  
9 of its pupils.

10 (i) The implementation of various ethnic studies courses within  
11 California's curriculum that are A-G approved, with the objective  
12 of preparing pupils to be global citizens with an appreciation for  
13 the contributions of multiple cultures, will close the achievement  
14 gap, reduce—~~student~~ *pupil* truancy, increase—~~student~~ *pupil*  
15 enrollment, reduce dropout rates, and increase graduation rates.

16 (j) The state should support efforts in recruiting and retaining  
17 teachers who have relevant experience and educational background  
18 in the study or teaching of ethnic studies.

19 SEC. 2. Section 51226.7 is added to the Education Code, to  
20 read:

21 51226.7. (a) The Superintendent of ~~Public Instruction~~ shall  
22 oversee the development of, and the ~~State Board of Education~~ *state*  
23 *board* shall adopt, a model curriculum ~~framework, professional~~  
24 ~~development standards, framework~~ and other support systems to  
25 ensure quality courses of study in ethnic studies through  
26 partnerships with universities with ethnic studies programs. The  
27 model curriculum framework shall meet the A-G approval  
28 requirements of the Regents of the University of California.

29 (b) (1) On or before the beginning of the 2016–17 school year,  
30 the Superintendent shall establish an Ethnic Studies Advisory  
31 Committee ~~consisting of relevant stakeholders, including, but not~~  
32 ~~limited to, students, parents, state personnel, ethnic studies scholars,~~  
33 ~~university professors, and teachers with ethnic studies experience.~~  
34 *comprising of a majority of educators with experience in teaching*  
35 *ethnic studies from public high schools and institutions of higher*  
36 *education.*

37 (2) The Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee shall advise, assist,  
38 and make recommendations to the *state* board about programs,  
39 ~~professional development,~~ curriculum content, and other issues  
40 related to ethnic studies.

1 (c) On or before June 30, 2016, the Superintendent shall submit  
2 to the *state* board a plan to fully implement this section that  
3 includes, at a minimum, key actions needed to overcome any  
4 challenges foreseen to implementing this section, ~~time tables,~~  
5 *timetables*, staffing responsibilities, and budget requirements.

6 (d) Beginning the school year following the adoption of the  
7 model curriculum framework pursuant to subdivision (a), each  
8 school district maintaining any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, shall  
9 offer to all otherwise qualified pupils in those grades, as an elective  
10 in the social sciences, a course of study in ethnic studies based on  
11 the model curriculum framework.

12 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
13 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
14 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
15 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
16 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.