

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 101

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

January 8, 2015

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 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, 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~~ *authorize* 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~~ *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) 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 body of academic research that shows
- 9 the importance of culturally meaningful and relevant curriculum.
- 10 (d) Based on the National Education Association (NEA)
- 11 publication, The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies,
- 12 the inclusion of ethnic studies in a curriculum has a positive impact
- 13 on pupils of color.
- 14 (e) Ethnic studies benefit pupils in observable ways, such as
- 15 pupils becoming more academically engaged, increasing their
- 16 performance on academic tests, improving their graduation rates,
- 17 and developing a sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment.
- 18 (f) The state's educational standards should be guided by core
- 19 values of equity, inclusiveness, and universally high expectations.

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

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

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

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

17 SEC. 2. Section 51226.7 is added to the Education Code, to
18 read:

19 51226.7. (a) The Superintendent shall oversee the development
20 of, and the state board shall adopt, a model curriculum framework
21 and other support systems to ensure quality courses of study in
22 ethnic studies through partnerships with universities with ethnic
23 studies programs. The model curriculum framework shall meet
24 the A-G approval requirements of the Regents of the University
25 of California.

26 (b) (1) On or before the beginning of the 2016–17 school year,
27 the Superintendent shall establish an Ethnic Studies Advisory
28 Committee comprising of a majority of educators with experience
29 in teaching ethnic studies from public high schools and institutions
30 of higher education.

31 (2) The Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee shall advise, assist,
32 and make recommendations to the state board about programs,
33 curriculum content, and other issues related to ethnic studies.

34 (c) On or before June 30, 2016, the Superintendent shall submit
35 to the state board a plan to fully implement this section that
36 includes, at a minimum, key actions needed to overcome any
37 challenges foreseen to implementing this section, timetables,
38 staffing responsibilities, and budget requirements.

39 (d) Beginning the school year following the adoption of the
40 model curriculum framework pursuant to subdivision (a), each

1 school district maintaining any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, ~~shall~~
2 *may* offer to all otherwise qualified pupils in those grades, as an
3 elective in the social sciences, a course of study in ethnic studies
4 based on the model curriculum framework.

5 ~~SEC. 3.— If the Commission on State Mandates determines that~~
6 ~~this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to~~
7 ~~local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made~~
8 ~~pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division~~
9 ~~4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.~~