

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 309

Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis

February 12, 2015

An act relating to education, *and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 309, as amended, Mathis. ~~Postsecondary education: research grants. State Air Resources Board: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: research grant program.~~

Existing law establishes various grant programs relating to education, including, but not limited to, the Education Technology Grant Act of 2002 and the Child Development Teacher and Supervisor Grant Program.

~~This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would establish a research grant program for postsecondary educational institutions.~~

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The state board is required to adopt a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to the statewide greenhouse gas emissions level in 1990 to be achieved by 2020. The act authorizes the state board to include the use of market-based compliance mechanisms. Existing law requires all moneys, except for fines and penalties, collected by the state board from the auction or sale of allowances as part of a market-based compliance mechanism to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and to be available upon appropriation.

This bill would require the state board, in collaboration with the Department of Water Resources, to create and administer a research grant program to provide one-year grants to support research that would examine ways to increase fresh water yield, improve energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as specified. The bill would specify that only California State University campuses, University of California campuses, and private universities within the state are eligible for these grants. The bill would appropriate \$145,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the state board for these purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: ~~no~~-yes. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ 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 the following:*

2 *(a) The largest desalination plant project in the western*
 3 *hemisphere is in Carlsbad, California. The project has been*
 4 *approved by the California Coastal Commission, the State Lands*
 5 *Commission, and the area’s regional water quality control board,*
 6 *and, when the plan becomes operational in 2016, has the ability*
 7 *to produce 50 million gallons of drinking water daily for the*
 8 *residents of San Diego County.*

9 *(b) In March 2015, Santa Barbara municipal officials*
 10 *announced that the city is working on bringing a 20-year old*
 11 *desalination plant back into operation. The city expects that the*
 12 *facility will produce enough water to make up approximately 30*
 13 *percent of Santa Barbara’s water demand once the plant is fully*
 14 *operational.*

15 *SEC. 2. (a) The State Air Resources Board, in collaboration*
 16 *with the Department of Water Resources, shall create and*
 17 *administer a research grant program to provide one-year grants*
 18 *to support research that would examine ways to increase fresh*
 19 *water yield, improve energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse*
 20 *gas emissions by combining desalination and power generation*
 21 *plants. Only California State University campuses, University of*
 22 *California campuses, and private universities within the state shall*
 23 *be eligible for these grants.*

24 *(b) There is hereby appropriated one hundred forty-five*
 25 *thousand dollars (\$145,000) from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction*

1 *Fund to the State Air Resources Board for the purpose of this*
2 *section.*

3 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
4 ~~legislation that would establish a research grant program for~~
5 ~~postsecondary educational institutions.~~

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