

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 711

Introduced by Assembly Member Santiago

February 25, 2015

An act to amend Section 60605.3 of the Education Code, relating to school curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 711, as amended, Santiago. School curriculum: foreign languages.

Existing law requires the State Board of Education, on or before June 1, 2009, to adopt content standards for teaching foreign languages in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, pursuant to recommendations developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

This

Unless AB 740 of the 2015–16 Regular Session is enacted and becomes operative, this bill would require the state board, on or before ~~January~~ September 1, 2017, to adopt or reject specified national content standards for teaching foreign languages in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, pursuant to recommendations developed by the Superintendent. If AB 740 of the 2015–16 Regular Session is enacted and becomes operative, the bill would require the state board to appoint an advisory committee to recommend updated national content standards for teaching foreign language in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to the state board and would require the state board to adopt or reject those content standards, as specified.

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) The national World-Readiness Standards for Learning
4 Languages are in the process of being published. Those standards
5 reflect new research on best practices for teaching languages and
6 cultures and offer a sound vision for program goal setting, teaching
7 and facilitating learning, and assessing the standards pupils know
8 and applying that knowledge in global settings. Those standards
9 have now been adopted in total or with minor modifications in 40
10 states.

11 (b) The national World-Readiness Standards for Learning
12 Languages are based on the original national standards, ~~publish~~
13 *published* in 1996, that stood the test of time in providing common
14 language and descriptors for world languages and cultures
15 education.

16 (c) Pupils will benefit from the clarity that will arise from
17 following the widely adopted and updated national standards.
18 World language and culture educators in California, as of January
19 1, 2016, need to navigate between national and state standards as
20 they read and research professional documents, collaborate with
21 other world language and culture educators from other states and
22 nations, and engage in other professional standards-based work,
23 including national assessments for assessing learners proficiency
24 in world languages and cultures.

25 (d) If the World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages
26 are adopted by the State Board of Education by ~~June 1~~, *September*
27 *1*, 2017, the standards and framework could be developed in
28 tandem, rather than revising the standards adopted as of January
29 1, 2016, to reflect new framework and research, resulting in
30 significant cost savings for the state.

31 (e) The national World-Readiness Standards for Learning
32 Languages provide pupils friendly and clearly stated functional
33 learning goals and assessment tasks through a series of “I can”
34 statements based on predictable descriptors of language
35 development.

36 SEC. 2. Section 60605.3 of the Education Code is amended to
37 read:

1 60605.3. (a) (1) On or before ~~June 1~~, *September 1*, 2017, the
2 state board shall adopt *or reject* national content standards in
3 accordance with the World-Readiness Standards for Learning
4 Languages, ~~published, in 2015~~, *published in 2015* by the American
5 Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages, pursuant to
6 recommendations developed by the Superintendent, for teaching
7 foreign languages in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

8 (2) *If the state board rejects the national content standards, it*
9 *shall submit a written explanation to the Superintendent, the*
10 *Governor, and the Legislature of the reasons why the proposed*
11 *content standards were rejected.*

12 (3) *This subdivision shall not become operative if Assembly Bill*
13 *740 of the 2015–16 Regular Session is enacted and becomes*
14 *operative.*

15 (b) (1) *The state board shall appoint an advisory committee to*
16 *recommend updated national content standards for teaching*
17 *foreign language in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to*
18 *the state board. The advisory committee shall consist of 21*
19 *members, appointed as follows:*

20 (A) *Ten members appointed by the Governor.*

21 (B) *Four members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.*

22 (C) *Four members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.*

23 (D) *Three members appointed by the Superintendent.*

24 (2) *Members of the advisory committee shall serve at the*
25 *pleasure of the appointing authority.*

26 (3) *Not less than one-half of the members appointed by each of*
27 *the appointing authorities pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be*
28 *current public school elementary or secondary classroom teachers*
29 *who have a professional credential under state law, and meet the*
30 *definition of “highly qualified” under federal law.*

31 (4) *The advisory committee shall review the content standards*
32 *established in its particular subject matter and shall prepare*
33 *updates to the content standards as the committee deems necessary.*

34 (5) *When making its recommendation, the advisory committee*
35 *shall consider both of the following criteria:*

36 (A) *The extent to which its proposed updates reflect current and*
37 *confirmed research in the subject area under consideration.*

38 (B) *The impact that the proposed updates will have upon school*
39 *districts and existing curricula and assessments.*

- 1 (6) *The advisory committee shall conduct at least two, and no*
 2 *more than six, in-person meetings that are open to the public and*
 3 *include opportunities for public input. The advisory committee*
 4 *may convene additional meetings by teleconference or the Internet*
 5 *subject to the requirements of Article 9 (commencing with Section*
 6 *11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the*
 7 *Government Code.*
- 8 (7) *Upon completing this review, the terms of the members of*
 9 *the advisory committee shall cease.*
- 10 (8) *Upon updating the content standards, the advisory committee*
 11 *shall forward them to the state board, which shall do either of the*
 12 *following within 120 days of the receipt:*
- 13 (A) *Adopt the proposed updates as proposed by the advisory*
 14 *committee.*
- 15 (B) *Reject the proposed updates as proposed by the advisory*
 16 *committee. If the state board rejects the content standards, it shall*
 17 *provide a specific written explanation to the Superintendent, the*
 18 *Governor, and the Legislature of the reasons why the proposed*
 19 *content standards were rejected.*
- 20 (9) *Prior to final action pursuant to paragraph (4), the*
 21 *department shall post on its Internet Web site the updates proposed*
 22 *by the advisory committee for a minimum of 60 days. The*
 23 *department shall include a link by which members of the public*
 24 *may submit comments on the proposed updates.*
- 25 (10) *Members of the advisory committee shall serve without*
 26 *compensation, except for actual and necessary travel expenses*
 27 *and substitute costs.*
- 28 (11) *This subdivision shall become operative only if Assembly*
 29 *Bill 740 of the 2015–16 Regular Session is enacted and becomes*
 30 *operative.*
- 31 ~~(b)~~
- 32 (c) *The content standards adopted pursuant to subdivisions (a)*
 33 *or (b) shall support the goals of Section 51212 and subdivision (c)*
 34 *of Section 51220 by including all of the following:*
- 35 (1) *A summary of the language goals which recognizes that*
 36 *instruction may begin in elementary or secondary school.*
- 37 (2) *A description of individual language skills that should be*
 38 *taught and attained at each level.*
- 39 (3) *Course content that is aligned with findings from research*
 40 *on second language acquisition and education.*

1 (4) Course content that is aligned with the admission
2 requirements for the California State University and the University
3 of California.
4 (e)
5 (d) The content standards *adopted pursuant to subdivisions (a)*
6 *or (b)* may be used by school districts to develop language
7 programs and course assessments but are not mandatory.

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