

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1289

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooper

February 27, 2015

An act to amend Section 49350 of the Education Code, relating to pupil safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1289, as introduced, Cooper. Pupil safety: Community Policing and Mentoring for School Safety Pilot Program.

Existing law establishes the Community Policing and Mentoring for School Safety Pilot Program under the administration of the State Department of Education in order to ensure that pupils enrolled in California public schools attend campuses that are safe, secure, and orderly, and are places in which pupils and staff are free to learn and teach without the threat of physical or psychological harm. Existing law makes a statement of legislative findings and declarations relating to the pilot program.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to that statement.

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

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 49350 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 49350. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
4 following:

1 (1) Studies have shown that indicators of risk for violence are
2 associated with a child's experiences at school. Antisocial behavior
3 or aggressiveness, which is sometimes combined with isolation,
4 withdrawal, hyperactivity, or attention deficit disorder, places
5 children at *an* increased risk of violence.

6 (2) These children are at risk of persistent antisocial behavior,
7 such as skipping school, getting into fights, and misbehaving in
8 class. Young people of both genders who engage in these activities
9 are at increased risk of experiencing drug abuse, juvenile
10 delinquency, violence, dropping out of school, and teen pregnancy.

11 (3) It is well-known that some youth, even though exposed to
12 multiple risk factors, do not succumb to violent, antisocial behavior.
13 One of the defining factors for this outcome is bonding—positive
14 relationships with family members, teachers, police officers,
15 sheriffs' deputies, and other adults.

16 (4) The Community Policing and Mentoring for School Safety
17 Pilot Program brings this successful law enforcement strategy to
18 California's schools. By providing funding assistance, strict
19 participation—~~guidelines~~ *guidelines*, and assessments, the
20 Community Policing and Mentoring for School Safety Pilot
21 Program will bring highly trained law enforcement officers onto
22 school campuses to work with ~~students~~ *pupils* during and after
23 school. Community policing in schools will provide the necessary
24 opportunities for ~~students~~ *pupils*' active involvement in positive
25 activities, as well as trained personnel to teach them skills so that
26 they may pursue later opportunities successfully. Community
27 policing in schools provides a consistent system of recognition
28 and reinforcement of positive behavior.

29 (5) Many school safety approaches, including metal detectors,
30 drug-sniffing dogs, armed private security personnel, and similar
31 security measures, are more one-dimensional in their approach to
32 school safety. The Community Policing and Mentoring for School
33 Safety Pilot Program takes a multidimensional approach by
34 involving the community, schools, parents or guardians, and law
35 enforcement personnel in the design of the program that will serve
36 their schools. The relationships developed, as a result of this
37 process and the programs themselves, will be a strong preventative
38 alternative to antisocial behavior in California's schools.

39 (b) As used in this article, "community policing" means an
40 approach to crime prevention that is founded on developing

1 positive relationships between law enforcement and the community.
2 In community policing, law enforcement becomes an integral facet
3 of the community because officers work directly with the
4 community and develop positive relationships with members of
5 the community. Community members become more involved in
6 their community's activities because they know they have the
7 personal support of law enforcement. Community policing
8 identifies factors that put young people at risk for violence in order
9 to reduce or eliminate these factors and strengthen protective
10 factors such as positive relationships with adults.

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