

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 11, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 8, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 23, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1672

Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chang, Chávez, Cristina Garcia,
***Gonzalez, and Hadley*)**
(Coauthor: Senator Fuller)

January 15, 2016

An act to add and repeal Section 68530 of the Government Code, relating to courts, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1672, as amended, Mathis. Veterans treatment courts: Judicial Council assessment and survey.

Existing law establishes a statewide system of courts with a superior court of one or more judges in each county. Existing law requires the Judicial Council to prescribe the methods, means, and standards for electronic collection of data related to court administration, practice, and procedure.

This bill would require the Judicial Council to ~~assess, on a statewide basis, veterans treatment courts currently in operation, survey counties~~

~~that do not operate veterans treatment courts to identify barriers to program implementation, and assess the need to establish veterans courts in those counties, as specified, report to the Legislature on a study of veterans and veterans treatment courts that includes a statewide assessment, as specified, of veterans courts currently in operation and a survey of counties that do not operate veterans treatment courts for the purpose of identifying barriers to program implementation and assessing the need to establish veterans treatment courts in those counties, if funds are received for the assessment and survey. that purpose.~~ The bill would require the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature on the results of the ~~assessment and survey, study,~~ as specified, on or before June 1, 2019. The bill would create the Veterans Court Assessment Fund in the State Treasury, administered by the ~~State Controller, Judicial Council,~~ and would authorize the fund to accept private donations, as specified. The bill would appropriate specified sums from the Veterans Court Assessment Fund and from the General Fund for the purpose of conducting the ~~assessment, survey, study~~ and report.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 68530 is added to the Government Code,
 2 to read:
 3 68530. (a) If the Judicial Council receives funds for the
 4 purpose of implementing this section, the Judicial Council shall
 5 ~~do all of the following: provide a report to the Legislature on a~~
 6 ~~study of veterans and veterans treatment courts that includes the~~
 7 ~~following:~~
 8 (1) ~~Assess, on a statewide basis, veterans treatment courts~~
 9 ~~currently in operation, including the number of veteran participants~~
 10 ~~in the program, available services, and program outcomes,~~
 11 ~~including, but not limited to, the number of successful program~~
 12 ~~completions or program terminations. A statewide assessment of~~
 13 ~~the veterans treatment courts currently in operation that includes~~
 14 ~~the number of veteran participants in the program, services~~
 15 ~~available, and program outcomes, including successful completion~~
 16 ~~or program terminations.~~ The assessment shall evaluate the impact
 17 of a sample of veterans treatment courts on participant outcomes,

1 including, but not limited to, program recidivism, mental health,
2 homelessness, employment, social stability, and substance abuse.

3 (2) ~~Survey counties that do not operate veterans treatment courts~~
4 ~~to identify barriers to program implementation and assess the need~~
5 ~~for veterans treatment courts in those jurisdictions based on~~
6 ~~available existing veterans services and the estimated number of~~
7 ~~veterans involved in the local criminal justice system. A survey of~~
8 ~~counties that do not operate veterans treatment courts that~~
9 ~~identifies barriers to program implementation and assesses the~~
10 ~~need for veterans treatment courts in those jurisdictions based on~~
11 ~~the veterans services available and the estimated number of~~
12 ~~veterans involved in the local criminal justice system.~~ The survey
13 shall identify alternative resources that may be available to
14 veterans, such as community courts or other collaborative justice
15 courts.

16 (b) On or before June 1, 2019, the Judicial Council shall report
17 to the Legislature on the results of the ~~assessment and survey study~~
18 described in subdivision (a). The report shall include
19 recommendations regarding the expansion of veterans treatment
20 courts *or services* to counties without veterans treatment courts
21 and shall explore the feasibility of designing regional model
22 veterans treatment courts through the use of service coordination
23 or technological resources. The report shall be submitted in
24 compliance with Section ~~9795 of the Government Code.~~ 9795.

25 (c) Fifty percent of the funds required for the ~~assessment, survey,~~
26 ~~study~~ and report described in this section shall be funded by private
27 sources, and 50 percent of the funds shall be funded by the state,
28 upon appropriation by the Legislature.

29 (d) The Veterans Court Assessment Fund is hereby created in
30 the State Treasury. The fund shall be administered by the ~~State~~
31 ~~Controller.~~ *Judicial Council*. The fund may accept private
32 donations from entities and individuals, and the ~~Controller~~ *Judicial*
33 *Council* shall deposit the donations into the fund.

34 (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2020,
35 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
36 is enacted before January 1, 2020, deletes or extends that date.

37 SEC. 2. If this act is not enacted, the ~~State Controller~~ *Judicial*
38 *Council* shall return any funds donated to the Veterans Court
39 Assessment Fund or donated for the purpose of carrying out the
40 ~~assessment, survey, study~~ and report described in Section 1 of this

1 act to the entity or individual who made the donation in an amount
2 equal to the donation.

3 SEC. 3. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)
4 is hereby appropriated from the Veterans Court Assessment Fund
5 to the Judicial Council for the purpose of conducting the
6 ~~assessment, survey,~~ *study* and report described in Section 68530
7 of the Government Code.

8 SEC. 4. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)
9 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Judicial
10 Council for the purpose of conducting the ~~assessment, survey,~~
11 *study* and report described in Section 68530 of the Government
12 Code.

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