

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1876

Introduced by Assembly Member Lopez

February 10, 2016

An act to add Section 51420.5 to the Education Code, relating to pupils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1876, as introduced, Lopez. Pupils: diploma alternatives: language options.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue a high school equivalency certificate and an official score report, or an official score report only, to a person who has not completed high school and who meets specified requirements, including, among others, having taken all or a portion of a general education development test that has been approved by the State Board of Education and administered by a testing center approved by the State Department of Education, with a score determined by the state board to be equal to the standard of performance expected from high school graduates.

Commencing July 1, 2017, this bill would prohibit the department from approving or renewing approval of a contractor or testing center to administer the tests described above unless the contractor or testing center provides those tests in the top 5 primary languages used in the contractor or testing center's service area. The bill would require an examinee to be able to take the test in the offered language of his or her choice.

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 both of the
2 following:

3 (a) The intention in enacting the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual
4 Services Act was to provide for effective communication between
5 all levels of government in this state and the people of this state
6 who are precluded from utilizing public services because of
7 language barriers.

8 (b) It is in the interest of California to reduce language barriers
9 in obtaining high school equivalency certificates.

10 SEC. 2. Section 51420.5 is added to the Education Code, to
11 read:

12 51420.5. (a) Commencing July 1, 2017, the department shall
13 not approve or renew approval of a contractor or testing center to
14 administer tests for purposes of Section 51420 unless the contractor
15 or testing center provides the general educational development
16 tests that have been approved by the state board in the top five
17 primary languages used in the contractor or testing center's service
18 area.

19 (b) An examinee shall be able to take the test in the offered
20 language of his or her choice.

21 (c) This section is intended to supplement and not supplant any
22 other requirements the department adopts for the approval of
23 contractors or testing centers under this article.