

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2016**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Alejo, Jones-Sawyer, Chiu, and Achadjian**

**(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Eduardo Garcia, Holden, and Nazarian)**

**(Principal coauthor: Senator Block)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ting and Williams)**

February 16, 2016

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An act to add Section 51226.7 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2016, as introduced, Alejo. Pupil instruction: ethnic studies.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include, among other subjects, the social sciences. Existing law requires the State Board of Education, with the assistance of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to establish a list of textbooks and other instructional materials that highlight the contributions of minorities in the development of California and the United States. Existing law establishes the Instructional Quality Commission and requires the commission to, among other things, recommend curriculum frameworks to the state board.

This bill would require the Superintendent to oversee the development of, and the state board to adopt, a model curriculum to ensure quality courses in ethnic studies. The bill would require the Instructional Quality Commission to advise, assist, and make recommendations to the Superintendent regarding the development of the model curriculum. The bill would, beginning the school year following the adoption of the

model curriculum, require each school district maintaining any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, that does not otherwise offer a standards-based ethnic studies curriculum, to offer, as an elective in the social sciences, a course of study in ethnic studies based on the model curriculum. By imposing new duties on school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

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

*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 State of California is committed to providing excellent
- 4 educational opportunities to all of its pupils.
- 5 (b) There are 92 languages other than English spoken throughout
- 6 the state, with the primary languages being Arabic, Armenian,
- 7 Cantonese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
- 8 (c) There is a growing body of academic research that shows
- 9 the importance of culturally meaningful and relevant curriculum.
- 10 (d) Based on the National Education Association (NEA)
- 11 publication, *The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies*,
- 12 the inclusion of ethnic studies in a curriculum has a positive impact
- 13 on pupils of color.
- 14 (e) Ethnic studies benefit pupils in observable ways, such as
- 15 pupils becoming more academically engaged, increasing their
- 16 performance on academic tests, improving their graduation rates,
- 17 and developing a sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment.
- 18 (f) The state’s educational standards should be guided by core
- 19 values of equity, inclusiveness, and universally high expectations.
- 20 (g) The state is committed to its efforts to provide all pupils
- 21 with excellent educational opportunities, without regard to race,

1 gender, ethnicity, nationality, income, sexual orientation, or  
2 disability.

3 (h) The state is committed to its obligation to ensure its youth  
4 are college prepared and career ready, while graduating 100 percent  
5 of its pupils.

6 (i) The implementation of various ethnic studies courses within  
7 California’s curriculum that are A-G approved, with the objective  
8 of preparing pupils to be global citizens with an appreciation for  
9 the contributions of multiple cultures, will close the achievement  
10 gap, reduce pupil truancy, increase pupil enrollment, reduce  
11 dropout rates, and increase graduation rates.

12 (j) The state should support and work with the Commission on  
13 Teacher Credentialing, California State University teaching  
14 credential programs, and other relevant parties in establishing a  
15 single subject ethnic studies credential. The state should also  
16 support efforts in recruiting and retaining teachers who have  
17 experience and educational background in the study and teaching  
18 of ethnic studies.

19 SEC. 2. Section 51226.7 is added to the Education Code, to  
20 read:

21 51226.7. (a) The Superintendent shall oversee the development  
22 of, and the state board shall adopt, a model curriculum to ensure  
23 quality courses of study in ethnic studies through partnerships with  
24 universities with ethnic studies programs. The model curriculum  
25 shall meet the A-G approval requirements of the Regents of the  
26 University of California.

27 (b) On or before the beginning of the 2017–18 school year, the  
28 Instructional Quality Commission shall advise, assist, and make  
29 recommendations to the Superintendent regarding the development  
30 of the model curriculum pursuant to subdivision (a).

31 (c) Beginning the school year following the adoption of the  
32 model curriculum pursuant to subdivision (a), each school district  
33 maintaining any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, that does not  
34 otherwise offer a standards-based ethnic studies curriculum, shall  
35 offer to all otherwise qualified pupils in each of those grades, as  
36 an elective in the social sciences, a course of study in ethnic studies  
37 based on the model curriculum.

38 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
39 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
40 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made

- 1 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 2 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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