

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 16, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2016

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

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

(Principal coauthors: Senators Block and Hall)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ting and Williams)

February 16, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2016, as amended, 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 Instructional Quality Commission to develop, and the state board to adopt, *modify, or revise*, a model

curriculum in ethnic studies, and would encourage each school district and charter school that maintains any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, that does not otherwise offer a standards-based ethnic studies curriculum to offer a course of study in ethnic studies based on the model curriculum.

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 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,
22 gender, ethnicity, nationality, income, sexual orientation, or
23 disability.
- 24 (h) The state is committed to its obligation to ensure its youth
25 are college prepared and career ready, while graduating 100 percent
26 of its pupils.
- 27 (i) The implementation of various ethnic studies courses within
28 California's curriculum that are A-G approved, with the objective
29 of preparing pupils to be global citizens with an appreciation for
30 the contributions of multiple cultures, will close the achievement

1 gap, reduce pupil truancy, increase pupil enrollment, reduce
2 dropout rates, and increase graduation rates.

3 ~~(j) The state should support and work with the Commission on
4 Teacher Credentialing, California State University teaching
5 credential programs, and other relevant parties in establishing a
6 single subject ethnic studies credential. The state should also
7 support efforts in recruiting, training, and retaining teachers who
8 have relevant experience and educational background in the study
9 and teaching of ethnic studies.~~

10 *(j) The state encourages the participation of pupils and members
11 of the community in the development of an ethnic studies model
12 curriculum.*

13 SEC. 2. Section 51226.7 is added to the Education Code, to
14 read:

15 51226.7. (a) The Instructional Quality Commission shall
16 develop, and the state board shall adopt, *modify, or revise*, a model
17 curriculum in ethnic studies to ensure quality courses of study in
18 ethnic studies. The model curriculum shall be developed with
19 participation from faculty of ethnic studies programs at universities
20 and colleges with ethnic studies programs and a group of
21 representatives of local educational agencies, a majority of whom
22 are kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, teachers who have relevant
23 experience or education background in the study and teaching of
24 ethnic studies.

25 (b) The model curriculum shall be written as a guide to allow
26 school districts to adapt their courses to reflect the pupil
27 demographics in their communities. The *model* curriculum shall
28 include examples of courses offered by local educational agencies
29 that have been approved as meeting the A-G admissions
30 requirements of the University of California and the California
31 State University, including, to the extent possible, course outlines
32 for those courses.

33 (c) On or before ~~June 30, December 31, 2019~~, the Instructional
34 Quality Commission shall submit the model curriculum to the state
35 board for adoption, and the state board shall adopt the model
36 curriculum on or before ~~November 30, 2019~~. *March 31, 2020.*

37 (d) The Instructional Quality Commission shall provide *a*
38 *minimum of 45 days* for public comment before submitting the
39 model curriculum to the state board.

1 (e) Beginning in the school year following the adoption of the
2 model curriculum pursuant to subdivision (a), each school district
3 or charter school maintaining any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, that
4 does not otherwise offer a standards-based ethnic studies
5 curriculum is encouraged to offer to all otherwise qualified pupils
6 a course of study in ethnic studies based on the model curriculum.
7 A school district or charter school that elects to offer a course of
8 study in ethnic studies pursuant to this subdivision shall offer the
9 course as an elective in the social sciences or English language
10 arts and shall make the course available in at least one year during
11 a pupil's enrollment in grades 9 to 12, inclusive.
12 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that local educational
13 agencies submit course outlines for ethnic studies for approval as
14 A-G courses.