

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2383

Introduced by Assembly Member Medina

February 18, 2016

An act to add Chapter 15.8 (commencing with Section 67395) to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2383, as introduced, Medina. Autism Employment and Education Act.

Existing law establishes the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as 2 of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law states the intent of the Legislature that the public postsecondary institutions request, and the state provide, through the state budget process, funds to cover the actual cost of providing services and instruction, consistent with specified principles, to disabled students in their respective postsecondary institutions.

This bill would establish the Autism Employment and Education Program, which would establish a residential, occupational, and living skills program at each participating community college and California State University campus to help students with mental disabilities, including autism, live independently, obtain employment, and become otherwise self-sufficient after they graduate or withdraw from the college or university. The bill would establish the Autism Employment and Education Fund in the State Treasury and allocate moneys in the fund,

upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the board of governors and the trustees for the development, implementation, and administration of the program. The bill would only become operative upon appropriation by the Legislature for the implementation and administration of the program.

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. Chapter 15.8 (commencing with Section 67395)
2 is added to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code,
3 to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 15.8. AUTISM EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION ACT
6

7 67395. (a) This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as
8 the Autism Employment and Education Act.

9 (b) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

10 (1) Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a lifelong neurological
11 condition estimated to affect as many as one in 88 children. It is
12 now the most common neurological disorder affecting children
13 and one of the most common developmental disabilities.

14 (2) Many individuals living with ASD will need some level of
15 support over the course of their lives. In cases where adolescents
16 and adults with severe autism are placed into long-term care or
17 other supported housing arrangements, the annual cost of housing,
18 which includes caregiver time, can be four hundred dollars (\$400)
19 per day, or approximately one hundred fifty thousand dollars
20 (\$150,000) a year.

21 (3) It is estimated that the lifetime per capita incremental societal
22 cost of ASD is three million two hundred thousand dollars
23 (\$3,200,000) per individual or approximately fifty thousand seven
24 hundred ninety-three dollars (\$50,793) per year on average.

25 (4) As of February 2016, Taft Community College is the only
26 occupational and living skills residential program of its kind offered
27 in California, and the program is currently unable to meet the needs
28 of students who apply. The program has been in existence for
29 nearly 20 years and receives the majority of its funding from
30 regional centers in California. More than 80 percent of its graduates

1 are employed by the end of the second year of post graduation
2 services.

3 (5) According to Disability Planning Data for Riverside County,
4 10.5 percent of people (about 120,000 people) 21 to 64 years of
5 age have some type of a disability. Of this number, 37 percent are
6 employed, but this data does not indicate whether they are
7 employed full time or part time.

8 (6) According to a report published in April 2012 by the Autism
9 Society of California, “The majority of transition aged families
10 (98 percent) believed that current adult programs are not going to
11 meet their loved-one’s needs.” Additional findings from this report
12 indicated that only 5 percent of people with ASD graduated from
13 college with a bachelor’s degree and only 3 percent graduated with
14 a master’s or an associate degree. About 12 percent of students
15 with ASD go to college and do not succeed; this is lower than the
16 national average of 14 percent. The number of people with ASD
17 in California remaining at home and not participating in any type
18 of postsecondary educational program is on the rise, going from
19 13 percent in 2009 to 18 percent in 2012.

20 (7) According to the Department of Labor Statistics, the
21 unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities is 78.5 percent.

22 (8) Mandated services provided through the federal Individuals
23 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) end upon
24 completion of high school, yet 60 percent of lifetime costs occur
25 in adulthood. According to the Autism Society, there is a significant
26 disparity in the need for, and the availability of, publicly funded
27 long-term services and supports for people with disabilities. This
28 disparity results in waiting lists estimated to range from 80,000 to
29 200,000 people nationwide.

30 (9) It is the intent of the Legislature that implementing a
31 residential, occupational, and living skills program for students
32 with mental disabilities, including autism, will accomplish all of
33 the following objectives:

34 (A) The program will increase the rate of employment of
35 students with mental disabilities from its current level of around
36 25 percent to 85 percent.

37 (B) The program will be a more affordable alternative for
38 families than adult day treatment programs, which may cost nearly
39 twice as much.

1 (C) The program will enable participating students to live
2 independently, to learn the life skills necessary to become lifelong
3 productive members of their local communities in California, and
4 to not need to relocate out of state in order to receive affordable
5 services.

6 (D) The program will provide students with mental disabilities
7 a more coordinated continuity of care by incorporating all of their
8 living skills, occupational, social, and recreational development
9 needs into one program.

10 67395.5. (a) The Autism Employment and Education Program
11 is hereby established to develop and implement a residential,
12 occupational, and living skills program at each participating
13 community college and California State University campus to help
14 students with mental disabilities, including autism, live
15 independently, obtain employment, and become otherwise
16 self-sufficient after they graduate or withdraw from the campus.

17 (b) The Autism Employment and Education Fund is hereby
18 established in the State Treasury for purposes of this chapter. The
19 moneys in the fund shall be available, upon appropriation by the
20 Legislature, to the Board of Governors of the California
21 Community Colleges and the Trustees of the California State
22 University for the implementation and administration of this
23 chapter.

24 (c) The Board of Governors of the California Community
25 Colleges and the Trustees of the California State University shall
26 develop and implement both of the following:

27 (1) A residential, occupational, and living skills program at each
28 participating college or university, as applicable, to help students
29 with mental disabilities, including autism, live independently,
30 obtain employment, and become otherwise self-sufficient after
31 they graduate or withdraw from the college or university.

32 (2) Administrative guidelines and other requirements for
33 purposes of developing, implementing, and administering the
34 program described in paragraph (1).

35 67395.7. This chapter shall only become operative upon
36 appropriation in the annual Budget Act for the implementation
37 and administration of this chapter.

O