

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2401

Introduced by Assembly Member O'Donnell

February 18, 2016

An act relating to teachers, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2401, as introduced, O'Donnell. Teachers: California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment System.

Existing law establishes the California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment System, to be administered jointly by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the Superintendent of Public Instruction for specified purposes, including providing an effective transition into the teaching career for first-year and 2nd-year teachers in California.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations regarding the teacher shortage in the state and the California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment System.

This bill would make an appropriation of an unspecified amount from the General Fund to the Superintendent and the commission for the 2016–17 fiscal year to fund the California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment System.

This bill would also state the intent of the Legislature that future funding for the California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment System be provided each year in the annual Budget Act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. 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) According to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the
4 number of pupils enrolled in teacher preparation programs declined
5 by more than 50 percent between 2008 and 2013.

6 (b) At the same time that enrollment in teacher preparation
7 programs is declining, more than 20 percent of California's teachers
8 have more than 20 years of experience, meaning they are at or near
9 retirement age and will need to be replaced.

10 (c) Among new teachers, 40 percent leave the profession within
11 the first five years, adding to the teacher shortage and reducing
12 the benefits of the state's investment in teacher preparation.

13 (d) The California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment
14 System (Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 44279.1) of Chapter
15 2 of Part 25 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Education Code), which
16 was established in 1992, has been shown to substantially increase
17 new teacher retention to nearly 90 percent. In addition, the
18 California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment System
19 has been shown to improve teacher effectiveness and pupil
20 outcomes.

21 (e) There is a clear state interest in continuing the California
22 Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment System as a proven
23 means of effectively addressing the teacher shortage and improving
24 teacher effectiveness and pupil outcomes.

25 (f) With the enactment of the local control funding formula,
26 ongoing funding targeted to the California Beginning Teacher
27 Support and Assessment System was eliminated.

28 (g) While the local control funding formula is an effective
29 system for targeting spending to programs whose benefits accrue
30 to local educational agencies and their pupils, it is not an effective
31 system for the support of programs whose benefits primarily are
32 external to local educational agencies and are more statewide than
33 local.

34 (h) The California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment
35 System serves a compelling state interest and should be funded
36 each year in the annual Budget Act.

37 SEC. 2. The amount of ____ dollars (\$____) is hereby
38 appropriated from the General Fund to the Superintendent of Public

1 Education and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for the
2 purposes of Section 44279.2 of the Education Code for the 2016–17
3 fiscal year.

4 SEC. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature that funding for the
5 California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment System
6 (Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 44279.1) of Chapter 2 of
7 Part 25 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Education Code) be provided
8 each year in the annual Budget Act.

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