

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2521

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Medina)

February 19, 2016

An act to add *and repeal* Article 4 (commencing with Section 78050) to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2521, as amended, Cooley. Los Rios Community College Pilot Program to Support Special Needs Students.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law requires the board of governors to adopt rules and regulations for the administration and funding of educational programs and support services provided to disabled students by community college districts.

This bill ~~would~~ *would, until June 30, 2022*, authorize the Los Rios Community College District to establish the Los Rios Community College Pilot Program to Support Special Needs Students to provide various forms of academic and personal support to students with special needs, including autism spectrum disorders. The pilot program would require specified individuals who provide support to these students to

submit progress reports to the district and would require the district to compile this information and post it on its Internet Web site.

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) Providing comprehensive support services to special needs
4 students empowers them to advocate for themselves, master the
5 skills needed to live independently, and make daily life decisions.
6 In doing so, these students also develop rewarding and appropriate
7 relationships with peers and adults.

8 (b) With coaching from an independent living skills instructor,
9 special needs students can learn to use public transportation,
10 manage their money, pay bills, shop for groceries, prepare meals,
11 clean their apartments, and do their laundry. These individualized
12 supports complement these students' higher education goals and
13 prepares ~~prepare~~ them to transition confidently to independent
14 living, employment, and adulthood.

15 SEC. 2. Article 4 (commencing with Section 78050) is added
16 to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education
17 Code, to read:

18
19 Article 4. Los Rios Community College Pilot Program to
20 Support Special Needs Students

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22 78050. This article shall be known, and may be cited, as the
23 Los Rios Community College Pilot Program to Support Special
24 Needs Students.

25 78051. The Los Rios Community College Pilot Program to
26 Support Special Needs Students may be established by the Los
27 Rios Community College District to provide access to learning
28 supports for students with special needs, such as autism spectrum
29 disorders, including ~~Asperger Syndrome, Aspergers syndrome,~~
30 social and emotional maturation issues, and other related
31 disabilities. As part of the pilot program, the district may contract
32 with public or private programs that provide a network of
33 comprehensive services, including the support of resident ~~advisors,~~

1 *advisers*, tutors, mentors, psychologists, academic liaisons, site
2 directors, and others to help special needs students become more
3 self-sufficient, independent, confident, and successful in their
4 academic endeavors.

5 78052. The pilot program shall provide special needs students
6 with all of the following:

7 (a) Comprehensive academic support that includes helping them
8 apply to community college and register and enroll in community
9 college classes.

10 (b) An independent living skills instructor and encouragement
11 and support in seeking apartments near campus with one or more
12 roommates.

13 (c) An individually assigned mentor, ideally a graduate student
14 in psychology, to provide additional academic and personal
15 support.

16 (d) (1) Additional support provided by a dedicated team that
17 includes the program's director, a psychologist, additional tutors
18 and mentors, and a resident assistant, as appropriate.

19 (2) Individuals who provide support pursuant to subdivisions
20 (b) to (d), inclusive, shall submit progress reports for their special
21 needs students participating in the pilot program to the Los Rios
22 Community College District. The district shall compile the
23 information in these reports and post it on the district's Internet
24 Web site for parents and teachers to access.

25 (3) The information posted pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be
26 posted in a manner that provides appropriate protections for the
27 privacy of students involved consistent with the federal Family
28 Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g).

29 78053. The pilot program shall allow special needs students
30 who have not completed high school to simultaneously earn a high
31 school diploma, or its equivalent, and college credits at community
32 colleges within the district.

33 78054. Funding for the pilot program may be derived from any
34 source, including, but not limited to, state and nonstate funding
35 sources.

36 78055. *This article shall become inoperative on June 30, 2022,*
37 *and, as of January 1, 2023, is repealed, unless a later enacted*
38 *statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2023,*

- 1 *deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and*
- 2 *is repealed.*

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