

Assembly Bill No. 2105

CHAPTER 920

An act to amend Section 4 of Chapter 975 of the Statutes of 1995 and to add Section 60618 to the Education Code, relating to pupil assessments.

[Approved by Governor September 25, 1996. Filed
with Secretary of State September 26, 1996.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2105, Baldwin. Pupil assessments: Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content Standards.

Under existing law, the Leroy Greene California Assessment of Academic Achievement Act (Assessment Act), the State Board of Education is required to adopt statewide academically rigorous content and performance standards pursuant to the recommendations of the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards, as specified, in all core curriculum areas to serve as the basis for assessing the academic achievement of individual pupils and of schools, school districts, and the California education system.

The bill would provide that the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education, while used as standards for purposes of the Assessment Act, are to be considered model standards for any other purpose. The bill would permit school districts to use these model standards as a guideline in developing district standards.

Existing law established the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards. The commission is required to develop academically rigorous content standards and performance standards to be used in public schools maintaining kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, after holding 6 public hearings throughout the state. Existing law requires that on or before July 1, 1997, the commission shall develop and submit the academically rigorous content standards and performance standards for all core curriculum areas and for all grade levels to the State Board of Education for approval by the board. These standards must comply with specified requirements including the requirement that the standards be aligned with the knowledge and skills called for under the curriculum frameworks. Under existing law, the provisions relating to the commission are repealed on January 1, 1998.

This bill would require the commission instead to hold a sufficient number of hearings to allow input from specified persons in all geographic regions of the state, but no fewer than 6 public hearings.

The bill would extend the repeal of the provisions relating to the commission from January 1, 1998, to July 1, 1998.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that, because children are able to learn at higher levels than the levels currently required of them, it is the obligation of the Legislature, the State Department of Education, school districts, educators, and parents to provide children with standards that reflect high expectations. The Legislature declares that, through a shared sense of accountability and a cooperative spirit among state government, school districts, educators, parents, business persons, and the community, school districts and educators will develop and teach to high academic standards that will enable pupils to achieve their highest level of capability. It is the intent of the Legislature to support local decisionmaking by designating that the standards developed by the commission be model state content and performance standards to be used as a basis for the development of a statewide test. School districts may use these standards as voluntary benchmarks for the development of local academic standards.

SEC. 2. Section 60618 is added to the Education Code, to read:

60618. (a) The academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 60605 that are used as standards for the purposes of this article are to be considered model standards for any other purpose.

(b) School districts may use these model standards as a guideline in developing district standards.

SEC. 3. Section 4 of Chapter 975 of the Statutes of 1995, as amended by Section 4 of Chapter 69 of the Statutes of 1996, is amended to read:

Sec. 4. (a) There is hereby established in state government the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards, to consist of 21 members.

(1) The members of the commission shall be as follows:

(A) Twelve members appointed by the Governor.

(B) The Superintendent of Public Instruction, or his or her designee.

(C) Six members appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(D) One member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

(E) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(2) The chair of the commission shall be elected by the members of the commission.

(3) Members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.



(4) It is the intent of the Legislature that the membership of the commission include, but not necessarily be limited to, parents, classroom teachers, representatives of the business community, and individuals with expertise in pupil assessment or expertise in the subject matter areas included in the statewide pupil assessment program.

(b) The commission shall develop academically rigorous content standards and performance standards to be used in public schools maintaining kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive. Those academically rigorous content standards and performance standards shall comply with all of the following requirements:

(1) Be measurable and objective.

(2) Reflect the knowledge and skills necessary for California's work force to be competitive in the global, information-based economy of the 21st century.

(3) Be comparable in rigor to academic content and performance standards used in the school systems of America's global economic competitors.

(4) Provide the basis for assessments for kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, in the following groupings:

(A) Early elementary grades consisting of kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive.

(B) Upper elementary grades consisting of grades 4 to 6, inclusive.

(C) Early departmentalized grades consisting of grades 7 and 8.

(D) Secondary grades consisting of grades 9 to 12, inclusive.

(c) The commission shall first develop content standards and performance standards in reading, writing, and mathematics prior to developing content standards and performance standards in other core curriculum areas. The commission shall submit content standards and performance standards in each of the core curriculum areas to the State Board of Education for its consideration and adoption as they are completed by the commission.

(d) In developing the academically rigorous content standards and performance standards pursuant to subdivision (b), the commission shall hold a sufficient number of public hearings to allow input from parents, educators, and the public in all geographic regions of the state, but in no case fewer than six public hearings.

(e) On or before October 1, 1997, the commission shall have developed and submitted the academically rigorous content standards and performance standards for all core curriculum areas for all grade levels to the State Board of Education for approval by the board.

(f) Upon approval of a staffing and expenditure plan by the commission, funds appropriated for support of the commission shall be allocated by the chair or his or her designee. The commission may appoint personnel and enter into contracts and interagency agreements for services in support of the commission.



(g) This section shall remain in effect only until July 1, 1998, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, which is enacted before July 1, 1998, deletes or extends that date.

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