

Senate Bill No. 1568

CHAPTER 1068

An act to add Sections 44254 and 53023 to the Education Code, relating to education.

[Approved by Governor September 28, 1996. Filed
with Secretary of State September 30, 1996.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1568, Dills. Education.

(1) Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish professional standards, assessments, and examinations for entry and advancement in the education profession.

This bill would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards for a restricted reading certificate and would authorize the commission to issue a restricted reading certificate to holders of a teaching credential who meet the commission's standards.

(2) Existing law, the Miller-Unruh Basic Reading Act of 1965, ceased to be operative on June 30, 1987, except for limited funding provisions that provide for the employment of reading specialists for the purposes of programs established pursuant to the act.

This bill would require a school district, for the 1996–97 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, as a condition of receiving specified funding, to maintain the same level of expenditures on reading specialists that it expended in the 1995–96 fiscal year unless the governing board of the school district makes certain findings, as specified.

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

SECTION 1. Section 44254 is added to the Education Code, to read:

44254. (a) The commission shall establish standards for a restricted reading certificate to enable holders of a teaching credential to provide the early and continuing development of reading and language arts skills and the earliest possible correction of a pupil's reading difficulties.

(b) The standards and qualifications for the restricted reading certificate shall include, but not be limited to, demonstrated knowledge of the following:

(A) Current and confirmed research in the teaching of basic reading skills, including research in ongoing, diagnostic techniques that inform teaching and assessment.



(B) Techniques for teaching basic reading skills that include direct instruction in phonemic awareness, direct systematic, explicit phonics, and comprehension skills.

(C) Early intervention techniques.

(c) A candidate for a restricted reading certificate shall receive, within a clinical setting, guided practice in all of the skills set forth in subdivision (b).

(d) The commission shall be authorized to issue a restricted reading certificate to holders of a teaching credential who meet the commission's standards.

(e) For purposes of this section, "direct systematic, explicit phonics" means spelling patterns, the direct instruction of sound and symbol relationships, and practice in reading connected, decodable text.

SEC. 2. Section 53023 is added to the Education Code, to read:

53023. For the 1996-97 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, as a condition of receiving funding pursuant to the Categorical Program Funding Restructuring Act of 1996, as enacted by Assembly Bill No. 2769 of the 1995-96 Regular Session, a school district shall maintain the same level of expenditures on reading specialists that it expended in the 1995-96 fiscal year, unless the governing board of the school district, at a public hearing, finds that the district has redirected the funds to a higher direct instruction or classroom priority or a more cost-effective and research based tutorial reading strategy will be employed to assist poor readers.

SEC. 3. Section 2 of this act shall be operative only if Assembly Bill No. 2769 of the 1995-96 Regular Session is enacted and adds the Categorical Program Funding Restructuring Act of 1996 to the Education Code.

