

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 1999
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1587

Introduced by Assembly Member Scott
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Jackson, Knox, Kuehl, and Machado)
(Coauthors: Senators Ortiz, Schiff, and Solis)

February 26, 1999

An act to add Article 10.4 (commencing with Section 35294.10) to Chapter 2 of Part 21 of the Education Code, relating to school violence, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1587, as amended, Scott. School violence.

Existing law declares the intent of the Legislature that all California public schools in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, operated by a school district develop, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies and others, a comprehensive school safety plan and authorizes a governing board of a school district to apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a grant not to exceed \$15,000 per school to implement a plan meeting prescribed criteria.

This bill would establish the School Emergency Response to Violent Events program to require the State Department of

Education to provide assistance to schools and school districts in responding to a violent event, including, but not limited to, the establishment of regional training programs and the development of a crisis response handbook. The bill would appropriate ~~—\$2,000,000~~ \$138,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Education for these purposes.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately, as an urgency measure.

Vote: ²/₃. 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
2 the following:
- 3 (a) In response to recent homicides on school
4 campuses, there is need to reduce the aftermath trauma
5 created by violent events and to restore a safe learning
6 environment for pupil learning.
- 7 (b) A single event that results in death can leave a
8 school campus in crisis and disrupt the school climate
9 sufficiently to interfere with pupil learning.
- 10 (c) Youth between 12 and 17 years of age are crime
11 victims five times more often than adults over 35 years of
12 age.
- 13 (d) Homicides of youth between 12 and 17 years of age
14 have increased 95 percent between 1980 and 1994.
- 15 (e) Mental health practitioners can provide valuable
16 services in response to the aftermath of violent events on
17 school campuses in which death has left survivors
18 traumatized and unable to fully participate in or benefit
19 from school educational and other activities.
- 20 (f) A coordinated response team of school
21 psychologists, school counselors, other mental health
22 professionals, and law enforcement representatives who
23 have received specialized training should be available to
24 schools and districts when a violent event occurs on
25 campus or in the adjacent school community.
- 26 (g) Statewide training and resources are needed to
27 assist schools and school districts to anticipate specific

processes and steps to follow if and when a violent event, such as a suicide or homicide, impacts a schoolsite.

SEC. 2. Article 10.4 (commencing with Section 35294.10) is added, immediately preceding Section 35295, to Chapter 2 of Part 21 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 10.4. School Emergency Response to Violent Events

35294.10. (a) The School Emergency Response to Violent Events (SERVE) program is hereby established. Pursuant to this article, the State Department of Education shall do all of the following:

(1) Establish and operate regional training programs to assist schools and school districts to develop plans to anticipate their initial steps in the event of a violent event and to incorporate those plans within school and school district emergency response plans.

(2) Establish and train a cadre of mental health professionals and law enforcement officials to be on call for those school districts that must address the aftermath of a violent event.

(3) Develop a crisis response handbook for distribution to every school and school district.

(4) Identify services and resources available to schools and school districts to help them anticipate and respond to violent, disruptive situations.

~~(5) Assist school districts in conducting practice responses, and in performing periodic reviews and updates of the disaster procedure policies.~~

(b) An evaluation of the effectiveness of training shall be conducted by the State Department of Education and reported to the Legislature by March 1, 2002.

SEC. 3. The sum of ~~two million dollars (\$2,000,000)~~ *one hundred thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$138,000)* is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State Department of Education for the School Emergency Response to Violent Events (SERVE) program for the purposes of Article 10.4 (commencing with Section 35294.10) of Chapter 2 of Part 21 of the Education Code.

1 SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
2 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or
3 safety within the meaning of Article IV of the
4 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts
5 constituting the necessity are:

6 In order for training and assistance to be provided to
7 schools and school districts, at the earliest possible time,
8 for preparing crisis response plans, as well as identifying
9 services and resources available to schools and school
10 districts to help them anticipate and respond to violent,
11 disruptive situations, it is necessary that this act take
12 effect immediately.

