

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1931

Introduced by Assembly Member Scott

February 15, 2000

An act to add Section 233.8 to the Education Code, relating to hate violence, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1931, as introduced, Scott. Hate violence.

Existing law requires at the request of the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the State Board of Education adopt policies directed toward creating a school environment free from discriminatory attitudes, practices, and acts of hate violence and that the state board revise, as needed, curriculum to include human relations education with the aim of fostering an appreciation of people of different ethnicities.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to report by school district on an annual basis the number of suspensions and recommendations for expulsion for hate violence.

This bill would appropriate \$150,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Education to provide regional training programs throughout the state to assist school district personnel in the identification and determination of hate violence on school campuses, and \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Education for the purpose of providing grants to school districts to enable pupils and teachers to participate in educational programs focused on

overcoming prejudice, countering hatred, and fostering ethnic sensitivity, including programs conducted by the Museum of Tolerance.

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

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) The number of hate crimes against pupils is
4 dramatically increasing throughout the state.

5 (b) Hate crimes impact not only the individuals or
6 group victimized but also have a dramatic impact on the
7 school learning environment for all pupils.

8 (c) Pupil achievement depends, in part, on a safe
9 learning environment.

10 (d) Schools are required to complete
11 contemporaneous crime incident reports and report
12 them to the state semiannually.

13 (e) Reporting of hate crimes requires more
14 investigation than required for a contemporaneous
15 incident report.

16 (f) Understanding and identifying hate crimes on
17 school campuses and determination of motive requires
18 specialized training of school staff.

19 (g) To address hate crimes, educational programs
20 have been created to expose pupils to the dynamics and
21 history of racism and prejudice and issues of intolerance,
22 and to foster ethnic sensitivity and counter hatred.

23 SEC. 2. Section 233.8 is added to the Education Code,
24 to read:

25 233.8. (a) The State Department of Education shall
26 report annually to the Legislature, the Office of the
27 Secretary of Education, and the Governor the number of
28 suspensions and recommendations for expulsion by
29 school district for hate violence pursuant to Section
30 48900.3.



1 (b) The department shall provide regional training to
2 assist school district personnel in the identification and
3 determination of hate violence on school campuses.

4 (c) A grant program for school districts shall be
5 established by the department for the purpose of
6 enabling pupils and teachers to participate in educational
7 programs focused on fostering ethnic sensitivity,
8 overcoming racism and prejudice, and countering hatred
9 and intolerance. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
10 grants be administered on a competitive basis. The grant
11 program is not required to be implemented under this
12 section unless funds are appropriated for that purpose.

13 SEC. 3. The sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars
14 (\$150,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund
15 to the State Department of Education to provide,
16 pursuant to Section 233.8 of the Education Code, 11
17 regional training programs throughout the state to assist
18 school district personnel in the identification and
19 determination of hate violence on school campuses.

20 SEC. 4. The sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) is
21 hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State
22 Department of Education for the purpose of providing
23 grants to school districts to enable pupils and teachers to
24 participate in educational programs pursuant to Section
25 233.8 of the Education Code, including, but not limited to,
26 the “Tools for Tolerance for Teens” and “Steps to
27 Tolerance” conducted by the Museum of Tolerance.

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

33 The number of hate crimes among pupils is
34 dramatically increasing. In order to preserve pupil safety,
35 it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

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