

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1536

Introduced by Assembly Member Cardenas

February 23, 2001

An act to add and repeal Article 2 (commencing with Section 69540) of Chapter 5 of Title 8 of the Government Code, relating to superior courts, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1536, as amended, Cardenas. Truancy.

Existing law provides for making habitually truant minors a ward of the juvenile court.

This bill would provide that, as a pilot project, one division of the juvenile court in Los Angeles County selected by the Judicial Council shall be devoted solely to issues involving truancy, to be known as the "truancy court," which would have jurisdiction over the parents or guardians of a truant, as well as the truant, but shall exercise such jurisdiction only upon referral by specified agencies. The bill would also specify the staff of the truancy court, *provide for the rotation of the truancy court throughout Los Angeles County*, provide for the coordination of the pilot project by the Los Angeles Countywide Justice Coordinating Council, and provide for the repeal of the pilot project on an unspecified date.

The bill would impose a state-mandated local program by imposing new duties on the juvenile court in Los Angeles County.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state.

Statutory provisions provide a procedure for paying this reimbursement and require any statute mandating these costs to specify that reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund for these costs.

This bill would appropriate \$1,500,000 to the State Mandates Claims Fund to reimburse local agencies and school districts for costs mandated by the state and incurred by them pursuant to this act.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

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

1 SECTION 1. Article 2 (commencing with Section 69540) is
2 added to Chapter 5 of Title 8 of the Government Code, to read:

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4 Article 2. Truancy Court Pilot Project

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6 69540. As a pilot project, one division of the juvenile court in
7 Los Angeles County selected by the Judicial Council shall be
8 devoted solely to issues involving truancy in violation of Section
9 601 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to be known as the
10 “truancy court.”

11 69541. (a) The truancy court shall have jurisdiction over the
12 parents or guardians of a truant, as well as the truant, but shall
13 exercise such jurisdiction only upon referral by the truant’s school,
14 the School Attendance Review Board, and the Los Angeles
15 County Truancy Mediation Program, following their diligent
16 attempts to resolve the minor’s truancy problem.

17 (b) *The truancy court shall regularly rotate to different juvenile*
18 *courts geographically located throughout Los Angeles County to*
19 *ensure that all residents of the county have access to the truancy*
20 *court without placing an undue hardship on the family.*

21 69542. The truancy court shall be staffed by a team of
22 professionals, including a district attorney, public defender, school
23 district liaison, probation officer, mental health professional,
24 special education expert, and case manager who volunteer for
25 assignment to the truancy court, to consider and discuss the
26 circumstances of each case and attempt to reach consensus on the
27 action plan prior to a court hearing.



1 69543. The Los Angeles Countywide Criminal Justice
2 Coordinating Council shall coordinate the pilot project.

3 69544. This article shall be repealed on ____.

4 SEC. 2. The sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars
5 (\$1,500,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the
6 State Mandates Claims Fund to reimburse local agencies and
7 school districts pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section
8 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code for costs
9 mandated by the state and incurred by them pursuant to this act.

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