

Introduced by Senator Kuehl

February 22, 2006

An act to amend Sections 51500, 51501, and 60044 of the Education Code, relating to prohibited instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1437, as introduced, Kuehl. School instruction: prohibition of discriminatory content.

Existing law prohibits instruction or school sponsored activities that reflect adversely upon persons because of their race, sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin, or ancestry. Existing law prohibits the State Board of Education and the governing board of any school district from adopting textbooks or other instructional materials that contain any matter that reflects adversely upon persons because of their race, sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin, or ancestry.

This bill would revise the list of characteristics included in these provisions to include race or ethnicity, gender, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, and religion.

Existing law prohibits a governing board from adopting instructional materials that contain any matter reflecting adversely upon persons because of their race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, handicap, or occupation, or that contain any sectarian or denominational doctrine or propaganda contrary to law.

This bill would revise the list of characteristics included in this provision to include race or ethnicity, gender, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, and occupation.

This bill also would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions of existing law.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51500 of the Education Code is amended to read:

51500. No teacher shall give instruction nor shall a school district sponsor any activity ~~which~~ *that* reflects adversely upon persons because of their race *or ethnicity*, ~~sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin, or ancestry~~ *gender, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, or religion*.

SEC. 2. Section 51501 of the Education Code is amended to read:

51501. No textbook, or other instructional materials shall be adopted by the state board or by any governing board for use in the public schools ~~which~~ *that* contains any matter reflecting adversely upon persons because of their race *or ethnicity*, ~~sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin, or ancestry~~ *gender, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, or religion*.

SEC. 3. Section 60044 of the Education Code is amended to read:

60044. No instructional materials shall be adopted by any governing board for use in the schools ~~which~~ *that*, in its determination, contains:

(a) Any matter reflecting adversely upon persons because of their race *or ethnicity*, ~~color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, handicap, gender, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or occupation~~.

(b) Any sectarian or denominational doctrine or propaganda contrary to law.