

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 45

Introduced by Assembly Member Swanson
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bass, Beall, Carter, DeSaulnier,
Dymally, Eng, Hancock, Hayashi, Parra, Price, and Richardson)
(Coauthor: Senator Perata)

December 4, 2006

An act to add Section 41329.4 to the Education Code, relating to the Oakland Unified School District.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 45, as amended, Swanson. Oakland Unified School District: governance.

(1) Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to assume all the rights, duties, and powers of the governing board of the Oakland Unified School District and to appoint an administrator to act on behalf of the Superintendent in exercising the authority of the Superintendent over the school district. Existing law continues the authority of the Superintendent and the administrator over the school district until certain enumerated conditions are met, including the completion of an improvement plan for the district. Existing law requires the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) to prepare the improvement plan for the school district, as provided, by July 1, 2003, and requires the FCMAT to report on the implementation of the plan, as specified.

This bill would require FCMAT, on or before March 1 of each year, commencing March 1, 2008, until authority for all operational areas has been returned to the governing board of the Oakland Unified School District, to prepare and submit to the Legislature, the Superintendent, and the governing board of the school district a progress report on the district's assessment and recovery plan. On or before April 1 of each year, commencing on April 1, 2008, until authority for all operational areas has been returned to the governing board, the governing board and the state administrator appointed by the Superintendent would be required to agree on and execute a memorandum of understanding regarding the details of returning authority for one or more of the operational areas recommended for return to the school district in the most recent progress report submitted by FCMAT. The Superintendent would be required to return the authority for an operational area for which the annual FCMAT progress report recommends authority be returned to the governing board by July 1 of the year in which the report is submitted. The state administrator would be required to retain authority over, or the Superintendent would be authorized, in his or her sole discretion, to return to the state administrator authority over, any one or more operational areas that FCMAT recommends in its annual report be within the authority of the state administrator. The reversion of any authority to the state administrator would be required to occur by July 1 of the year following the year in which the report is submitted. ~~Subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or other statute, an amount not to exceed \$145,000 annually would be allocated to FCMAT to cover costs associated with its responsibilities pursuant to this bill.~~

(2) Existing law requires the governing board of the Oakland Unified School District to serve without compensation as an advisory body during the period that the Superintendent is exercising authority over the district.

This bill would entitle the members of the governing board to receive full compensation for services related to one or more operational areas, once authority for that area or areas is returned to the governing board, that they would have received prior to the transfer of authority to operate the district to the Superintendent.

(3) By requiring FCMAT to perform additional duties, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

(4) This bill would declare that due to the unique circumstances regarding governance of the school district, a general statute cannot be made applicable.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Providing a quality education that meets the unique needs
4 of Oakland public school pupils is a fundamental goal that should
5 not be jeopardized. On September 30, 2006, the County Office
6 Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT)
7 recommended, in its fourth progress report on the assessment and
8 recovery plan of the Oakland Unified School District, that the
9 operational area of community relations and governance be
10 returned to the district, and reported that the district has made
11 continued progress in the operational areas of facilities management
12 and pupil achievement.

13 (b) The Oakland Unified School District has been in state
14 receivership since 2003. During that time new members,
15 constituting a majority of the board, were elected to the governing
16 board of the district.

17 (c) State receivership is intended to be a process for recovery,
18 and FCMAT's comprehensive review has demonstrated tangible
19 progress by the Oakland Unified School District.

20 (d) The Oakland Unified School District has made notable
21 academic improvements over the last few years, demonstrated by
22 test score improvements, an increased number of fully credentialed
23 teachers in Oakland classrooms, and increased parental and
24 community involvement. In 2006, the Oakland Unified School

1 District made the largest improvement in API test scores among
2 the 33 largest unified school districts in California.

3 (e) The governing board and the community of the Oakland
4 Unified School District have the will to continue the key
5 educational reforms that have benefited Oakland public school
6 pupils in the last three years and to support difficult decisions in
7 order to immediately eliminate all further overspending by the
8 district.

9 (f) The governing board of the Oakland Unified School District
10 is voluntarily undergoing training in the responsibilities and proper
11 conduct of a school district governing board. The training began
12 in January 2007 and will be completed in June 2007.

13 (g) In its Fourth Progress Report on the Assessment and
14 Recovery Plan of the Oakland Unified School District, FCMAT
15 stated as follows:

16 “In collaboration with the California Department of Education,
17 FCMAT established the following criteria to measure the district’s
18 progress. When the average score of the subset of standards in an
19 operational area reaches a level of six and it is considered to be
20 substantial and sustainable, and no individual standard in the subset
21 is below a four, FCMAT will recommend to the Superintendent
22 of Public Instruction (SPI) that this particular condition of SB 39
23 has been met and that this operational area could be returned to
24 the Governing Board.”

25 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that the state
26 administrator appointed pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 4
27 of Chapter 14 of the Statutes of 2003 and the governing board of
28 the Oakland Unified School District begin the process of a
29 structured and orderly return of authority over the operational areas
30 of community relations and governance, pupil achievement,
31 personnel management, facilities management, and fiscal control
32 from the Superintendent of Public Instruction back to the governing
33 board of the Oakland Unified School District, pursuant to annual
34 FCMAT progress reports and recommendations on any operational
35 areas that should be returned to the control of the governing board.

36 SEC. 3. Section 41329.4 is added to the Education Code, to
37 read:

38 41329.4. (a) For purposes of this section, “operational areas”
39 means the operational areas of community relations and

1 governance, pupil achievement, personnel management, facilities
2 management, and fiscal control.

3 (b) On or before March 1 of each year, commencing on March
4 1, 2008, until authority for all operational areas has been returned
5 to the governing board of the Oakland Unified School District, the
6 County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Team (FCMAT)
7 shall prepare and submit to the Legislature, the Superintendent,
8 and the governing board of the school district a progress report on
9 the district's assessment and recovery plan. In preparing progress
10 reports pursuant to this subdivision, FCMAT shall use the same
11 standards, scoring methodology, and evaluative threshold that it
12 used in preparing its Fourth Progress Report on the Assessment
13 and Recovery Plan of the Oakland Unified School District.

14 (c) On or before April 1 of each year, commencing on April 1,
15 2008, until authority for all operational areas has been returned to
16 the governing board, the governing board and the state
17 administrator appointed by the Superintendent pursuant to
18 subdivision (b) of Section 4 of Chapter 14 of the Statutes of 2003
19 shall agree on the details of returning authority, and the resulting
20 division of responsibilities, for any of the operational areas
21 recommended for return to the school district in the most recent
22 progress report submitted by FCMAT. The agreement shall be
23 made in the form of a memorandum of understanding (MOU)
24 executed by both parties.

25 (d) If the governing board and the state administrator fail to
26 reach an agreement by April 1 pursuant to subdivision (c), the
27 governing board, by May 1 of that year, shall produce a statement
28 to be used in lieu of the MOU to govern the details of returning
29 authority, and the resulting division of responsibilities, for
30 operational areas to the governing board. The statement shall
31 become operative for purposes of governing the details of returning
32 authority for operational areas to the school district unless the
33 Superintendent, by June 1, presents just cause to an administrative
34 law judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings that the
35 statement should be modified.

36 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter 14 of the Statutes
37 of 2003, the Superintendent shall return authority for an operational
38 area for which the annual progress report prepared and submitted
39 by FCMAT recommends the authority be returned to the governing
40 board by July 1 of the year in which the report is submitted.

1 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter 14 of the Statutes
 2 of 2003, the state administrator shall retain authority over, or the
 3 Superintendent of Public Instruction may, in his or her sole
 4 discretion, return to the state administrator authority over, any one
 5 or more operational areas that FCMAT recommends in its annual
 6 report be within the authority of the state administrator. The return
 7 of any authority to the state administrator shall occur by July 1 of
 8 the year following the year in which the report is submitted.

9 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of Chapter 14 of the Statutes
 10 of 2003, the members of the governing board shall be entitled to
 11 receive the full compensation for services, once authority for one
 12 or more operational areas is returned to the governing board
 13 pursuant to this section, that they would have received prior to the
 14 Superintendent originally assuming authority for all of the
 15 operational areas.

16 ~~(h) Subject to an appropriation for this purpose in the annual~~
 17 ~~Budget Act or other statute, an amount not to exceed one hundred~~
 18 ~~forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000) annually shall be allocated~~
 19 ~~to FCMAT to cover costs associated with its responsibilities~~
 20 ~~pursuant to this section.~~

21 SEC. 4. The Legislature finds and declares that due to the
 22 unique circumstances regarding governance of the Oakland Unified
 23 School District, a general statute cannot be made applicable within
 24 the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
 25 Constitution.

26 SEC. 5. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
 27 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
 28 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
 29 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
 30 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.