

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 407

Introduced by Assembly Member Swanson

(Principal coauthor: Senator Ridley-Thomas)

**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bass Coauthors: Assembly Members
Bass and Hancock)**

(Coauthor: Senator Romero)

February 15, 2007

An act to add and repeal Section 237 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to juveniles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 407, as amended, Swanson. Probation Youth Success Act.

Existing law authorizes probation departments to engage in activities designed to prevent juvenile delinquency.

This bill would establish the Probation Youth Success Act, a 3-year pilot program to be conducted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Alameda County Office of Education. The act would require those county offices of education, if they chose to participate, to provide comprehensive, integrated educational, vocational, and mental health services to selected wards in selected juvenile ranches, camps, and forestry camps. The bill would require participating counties to provide matching funds to any state funds received for the program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. 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 that:

2 (a) Significant cost savings and reduced recidivism will result
3 from investment in vocational training and postrelease support
4 services for juvenile offenders in county custody. For every youth
5 averted from incarceration in a Division of Juvenile Justice facility,
6 the state will save between seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) and
7 one hundred fifty-four thousand dollars (\$154,000) per year in
8 detention and related costs. For every youth prevented from going
9 to prison as an adult, the state will save over thirty-four thousand
10 dollars (\$34,000) per inmate annually in detention costs alone.
11 Assuming, based on Los Angeles County data, that about 30
12 percent (over 48,000) of all state prison inmates had juvenile
13 records, a mere 1-percent reduction in these inmates would result
14 in annual savings in excess of sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000).

15 (b) Additional cost savings related to crime victims will be
16 realized by providing those services to juveniles. For every one
17 million dollars (\$1,000,000) spent on appropriate, high-quality
18 programs for juvenile offenders, up to 72 serious crimes are
19 prevented. For each serious crime prevented, the per-victim cost
20 savings ranges from sixty-eight thousand dollars (\$68,000) to two
21 hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000), with a mean
22 savings of one hundred seventy-one thousand five hundred dollars
23 (\$171,500) per crime, per victim.

24 (c) Appropriate postrelease services will increase wage
25 productivity. For each youth who does not drop out of school or
26 other postrelease education program, his or her earnings increase
27 by three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000). At present, about
28 one-half of all released youth drop out of school. If a
29 comprehensive vocational training and postrelease support project
30 prevented just 50 dropouts, the wage productivity of these youth
31 would increase by fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000), with a
32 related increase in participants' ability to pay taxes.

33 SEC. 2. Section 237 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
34 Code, to read:

35 237. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the
36 Probation Youth Success Act.

37 (b) The Los Angeles County Office of Education and the
38 Alameda County Office of Education may each conduct a

1 three-year pilot project wherein, in cooperation with their respective
2 county probation departments and other partners, they provide
3 comprehensive, integrated services to selected wards from 15 to
4 18 years of age, inclusive, in selected juvenile ranches, camps, and
5 forestry camps, including all of the following:

6 (1) A standards-based vocational or career technical education
7 program, integrated with or in addition to the existing academic
8 program in the facility.

9 (2) Tutor or other educator services to support work-related and
10 academic literacy and successful implementation of the vocational
11 program.

12 (3) An educational or vocational counseling program that
13 addresses learning disabilities and provides, while a ward is in
14 detention, intensive support and prerelease planning services.

15 (4) Transition, education advocacy, and case management
16 services to provide systems navigation, appropriate school or
17 vocational training program placement, and referrals for housing,
18 mental health services, and jobs for each ward for up to one full
19 year after release.

20 (5) Mental health services by licensed providers for the duration
21 of the project and appropriate training for project staff to address
22 the mental health needs of participants.

23 (c) Each participating county office of education shall select
24 between one and three juvenile ranches or camps as the pilot sites,
25 based upon each ranch or camp's demonstrated ability to
26 implement and manage such a program and to track outcomes.

27 (d) Participating wards shall continue to receive required
28 academic services, but shall be selected for this program based on,
29 but not limited to, the following criteria:

30 (1) Interest in, and ability to benefit from, intensive literacy
31 support and vocational training.

32 (2) A level of earned high school credits that places the ward
33 one year or more below grade level.

34 (3) Difficulty in passing standardized tests.

35 (4) Likelihood that interest in, or need for, postgraduate or
36 continuing education will be vocational rather than academic.

37 (e) The maximum state grant for this project over the three-year
38 pilot period, including program services, administration, and
39 evaluation costs, shall not exceed four million five hundred
40 thousand dollars (\$4,500,000). Grant funds shall be matched by

1 the county offices of education or program partners with one dollar
2 (\$1) for each five dollars (\$5) allocated by the state. *Matching*
3 *funds may be in cash from existing or new nonfederal sources or*
4 *from in-kind contributions.* Each county office of education shall
5 demonstrate that state funds will be used to provide new services
6 or expand existing services, and that state funds will not supplant
7 existing services.

8 (f) Each participating county office of education shall provide
9 or ensure provision of the comprehensive services outlined herein
10 to a minimum of 400 wards, including a vocational training
11 program, tutoring literacy support, educational and vocational
12 counseling, prerelease planning, mental health services, and up to
13 one year of postrelease support services to foster self-sufficiency
14 and prevent recidivism.

15 (g) Participating county offices of education shall complete a
16 report that evaluates the effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness,
17 of the pilot program. The report shall be submitted to the
18 Legislature on or before June 30, 2012. Outcome measures shall
19 include, but not be limited to, the following:

20 (1) The number of wards who complete the vocational or career
21 technical education program in the camp or residential facility.

22 (2) The number of wards who receive prerelease planning and
23 postrelease services.

24 (3) Enrollment and retention rates in postrelease education or
25 training programs or appropriate employment, or both, for a period
26 of at least six months.

27 (4) Rate of utilization of mental health services prerelease and
28 postrelease and their impact on stability of residence, education,
29 and employment.

30 (5) Provision of case management and related postrelease
31 services and their impact on the stability of each ward's residence,
32 education, and employment.

33 (6) Rate of recidivism and related cost savings or economic
34 benefits, if any.

35 (h) *This section shall become operative only if an appropriation*
36 *is made for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or other statute.*

37 (~~h~~)

1 *(i)* This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2013,
2 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
3 is enacted before January 1, 2013, deletes or extends that date.

O