

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2007

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)
(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. *The bill would require participating county offices of education to complete a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program, and to submit the report to the Legislature on or before June 30, 2012. The*

bill would require the Legislative Analyst’s Office to conduct an analysis of the report.

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.

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

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

5 (b) The Los Angeles County Office of Education and the
6 Alameda County Office of Education may each conduct a
7 three-year pilot project wherein, in cooperation with their respective
8 county probation departments and other partners, they provide
9 comprehensive, integrated services to selected wards from 15 to
10 18 years of age, inclusive, in selected juvenile ranches, camps, and
11 forestry camps, including all of the following:

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

15 (2) Tutor or other educator services to support work-related and
16 academic literacy and successful implementation of the vocational
17 program.

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

21 (4) Transition, education advocacy, and case management
22 services to provide systems navigation, appropriate school or
23 vocational training program placement, and referrals for housing,
24 mental health services, and jobs for each ward for up to one full
25 year after release.

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

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

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

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

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

40 (3) Difficulty in passing standardized tests.

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

3 (e) The maximum state grant for this project over the three-year
4 pilot period, including program services, administration, and
5 evaluation costs, shall not exceed four million five hundred
6 thousand dollars (\$4,500,000). Grant funds shall be matched by
7 the county offices of education or program partners with one dollar
8 (\$1) for each five dollars (\$5) allocated by the state. Matching
9 funds may be in cash from existing or new nonfederal sources or
10 from in-kind contributions. Each county office of education shall
11 demonstrate that state funds will be used to provide new services
12 or expand existing services, and that state funds will not supplant
13 existing services.

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

21 (g) Participating county offices of education shall complete a
22 report that evaluates the effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness,
23 of the pilot program. The report shall be submitted to the
24 Legislature on or before June 30, 2012. *The Legislative Analyst's*
25 *Office shall conduct an analysis of the report.* Outcome measures
26 shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

29 (2) The number of wards who receive prerelease planning and
30 postrelease services.

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

34 (4) Rate of utilization of mental health services prerelease and
35 postrelease and their impact on stability of residence, education,
36 and employment.

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

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

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

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

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