

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 795

Introduced by Assembly Member Hall

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Section 14000 of the Education Code, relating to education finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 795, as introduced, Hall. Education finance.

Existing law states the intent of the Legislature with respect to administration of the laws governing financial support of the public school system.

This bill would make various technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 14000 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 14000. It is the intent of the Legislature that ~~the~~ administration
4 of the laws governing ~~the~~ financial support of the public school
5 system in this state be conducted within the purview of the
6 following principles and policies:
7 ~~The~~
8 (a) *The* system of public school support should be designed to
9 strengthen and encourage local responsibility for control of public
10 education. Local school districts should be ~~so~~ organized that they

1 can facilitate~~the~~ provision of full educational opportunities for all
2 who attend the public schools. Local control is best accomplished
3 by~~the~~ development of strong, vigorous, and properly organized
4 local school administrative units. It is the state's responsibility to
5 create or facilitate~~the~~ creation of local districts of sufficient size
6 to properly discharge local responsibilities and to spend~~the tax~~
7 ~~dollar~~ *tax dollars* effectively.

8 ~~The~~

9 (b) ~~The~~ system of public school support should~~assure~~ *ensure*
10 that state, local, and other funds are adequate for~~the~~ support of a
11 realistic funding level. It is unrealistic and unfair to~~the~~ less wealthy
12 districts to provide for only a part of the financing necessary for
13 an adequate educational program.

14 ~~The~~

15 (c) ~~The~~ system of public school support should permit and
16 encourage local school districts to provide and support improved
17 district organization and educational programs. The system of
18 public school support should prohibit~~the~~ introduction of
19 undesirable organization and educational practices, and should
20 discourage any of those practices now in effect. Improvement of
21 programs in particular districts is in the interests of the state as a
22 whole as well as of the people in individual districts, since the
23 excellence of the programs in some districts will tend to bring
24 about program improvement in other districts.

25 ~~The~~

26 (d) ~~The~~ system of public school support should make provision
27 for~~the~~ apportionment of state funds to local districts on a strictly
28 objective basis that can be computed as well by~~the~~ local districts
29 as by the state. The principle of local responsibility requires that
30 the granting of discretionary powers to state officials over the
31 distribution of state aid and the granting to these officials of the
32 power to impose undue restriction on the use of funds and the
33 conduct of educational programs at the local level be avoided.

34 ~~The~~

35 (e) ~~The~~ system of public school support should effect a
36 partnership between the state, the county, and school districts, with
37 each participating equitably in accordance with its relative ability.
38 The respective abilities should be combined to provide a financial
39 plan between the state and~~the~~ local agencies for public school
40 support. Toward this support program, each county and district,

1 through a uniform method, should contribute in accordance with
2 its true financial ability.

3 ~~The~~

4 (f) *The* system of public school support should provide for
5 essential educational opportunities for all who attend the public
6 schools. Provision should be made in the financial plan for
7 adequate financing of all educational services.

8 ~~The~~

9 (g) *The* broader based taxing power of the state should be
10 utilized to raise the level of financial support in ~~the~~ properly
11 ~~organized~~ *organized*, but financially ~~weak~~ *weak*, districts of the
12 state, thus contributing greatly to ~~the~~ equalization of educational
13 opportunity for the students residing therein. It should also be used
14 to provide a minimum amount of guaranteed support to all districts,
15 for ~~that~~ state assistance serves to develop among all districts a
16 sense of responsibility to the entire system of public education in
17 the state.