

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 515

Introduced by Senator Hancock

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Section 52302 of the Education Code, relating to career technical education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 515, as amended, Hancock. Career technical education.

Existing law requires the governing board of each regional occupational center or program, on or before July 1, 2010, to ensure that at least 90% of all state-funded courses offered by the center or program, in occupational areas in which both the program or center and the community college offer instruction, are part of occupational course sequences that target comprehensive skills. Existing law additionally requires, as a condition of receiving federal funds provided under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1998, and to the extent permitted under federal law, that school districts, regional occupational centers or programs, and community college districts comply with specified requirements relating to the development of course sequences.

This bill would additionally require, as a condition of receiving federal funds provided under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1998, and to the extent permitted under federal law, that school districts, regional occupational centers or programs, and community college districts demonstrate on or before ~~January 1, 2012~~ *July 1, 2013*, that at least ~~half~~ *one-half* of the course sequences offered for students in ~~grades 9 to 12, inclusive~~, are linked to high priority workforce needs in the career sectors identified by the

~~State Department of Labor and Workforce Development Agency~~ for the State of California or for the economic region *established by the state* where the regional occupational center or program, community college district, or school district is located. ~~School districts and regional occupational centers or programs operated in a rural county of the 6th, 7th, or 8th class, and school districts with an average daily attendance of fewer than 500 pupils would be exempt from this requirement. The bill would encourage school districts, regional occupational centers or programs, and community college districts to work with local workforce investment boards in the identification of career sectors of high priority.~~

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Regional occupational centers and programs, partnership
- 4 academies, adult education programs, and career technical
- 5 education programs in secondary and postsecondary institutions
- 6 funded by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology
- 7 Education Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 2301 et seq.) have
- 8 benefitted from the state's recent adoption of career technical
- 9 education standards for courses in the 15 career sectors.
- 10 (b) As a result of recent legislation, career technical education
- 11 programs have significantly increased the available sequences of
- 12 courses leading to skills certificates and articulation agreements
- 13 between secondary schools and community colleges.
- 14 (c) The development of the newly adopted California Career
- 15 Technical Education Plan outlines a coordinated vision for career
- 16 technical education programs in secondary and postsecondary
- 17 institutions.
- 18 (d) The need for highly skilled workers in high priority career
- 19 sectors, as documented by the ~~State Department of Labor and~~
- 20 ~~Workforce Development~~ *Labor and Workforce Development*
- 21 *Agency* and the Workforce Investment Board, outpaces the number
- 22 of qualified individuals available.
- 23 SEC. 2. Section 52302 of the Education Code is amended to
- 24 read:

1 52302. (a) On or before July 1, 2010, the governing board of
2 each regional occupational center or program shall ensure that at
3 least 90 percent of all state-funded courses offered by the center
4 or program, in occupational areas in which both the program or
5 center and the community college offer instruction, are part of
6 occupational course sequences that target comprehensive skills.

7 Each occupational sequence shall do all of the following:

8 (1) Result in an occupational skill certificate developed in
9 cooperation with the appropriate employer advisory board created
10 under Section 52302.2.

11 (2) Provide prerequisite courses that are needed to enter
12 apprenticeship or postsecondary vocational certificate or degree
13 programs. Where possible, sequenced courses shall be linked to
14 certificate and degree programs in the region.

15 (3) Focus on occupations requiring comprehensive skills leading
16 to high entry-level wages or the possibility of significant wage
17 increases after a few years on the job, or both.

18 (4) Offer as many courses as possible that have been approved
19 by the University of California as courses meeting the “A-G”
20 admissions requirements.

21 (b) (1) On or before July 1, 2008, the governing board of each
22 regional occupational center or program shall develop a plan for
23 establishing sequences of courses, and certify to the department,
24 that those sequences have been developed, as described in
25 subdivision (a). The board shall consult with the superintendents
26 of the school districts served by the center or program and
27 presidents of community colleges in the area during the
28 development of the plan.

29 (2) The plan shall be presented at a public hearing by the
30 governing board of each school district served by the regional
31 occupational center or program and by the county board of
32 education.

33 (3) Community college boards with identified articulated
34 programs shall also review the plans in a public session.

35 (4) In developing the plan, each regional occupational program
36 or center shall consult with school districts and community college
37 districts located within the region served by the program or center
38 and with the relevant occupational advisers and local workforce
39 investment board to ensure the plan meets the vocational education
40 needs of high school pupils in the region by providing sequences

1 of courses that begin with middle or high school introductory
2 courses, including, but not limited to, occupational skill courses
3 provided by high schools or regional occupational programs or
4 centers.

5 (5) The plan shall maximize the use of local, state, and federal
6 resources in helping high school pupils enter comprehensive skill
7 occupations or apprenticeship programs, or continue education in
8 college, or all of these, after graduating from high school.

9 (6) The plan shall include strategies for filling gaps in courses
10 or other services needed to make the sequences effective in meeting
11 the needs of pupils in developing skills and attending community
12 college upon graduation from high school.

13 (7) Each center or program shall submit a copy of the approved
14 plan to the appropriate community college or colleges in the region
15 and the Superintendent on or before September 1, 2008. Every
16 four years after this date, on or before July 1, each center and
17 program shall submit an update to the plan to the local community
18 college or colleges and the Superintendent.

19 (c) As a condition of receiving federal funds provided under
20 the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education
21 Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 2301 et seq.), or a successor of that
22 act, and to the extent permitted by federal law, school districts,
23 regional occupational centers or programs, and community college
24 districts shall do all of the following:

25 (1) Develop course sequences that meet the requirements of this
26 section according to the schedule set forth in this paragraph.

27 (A) On or before July 1, 2008, school districts, regional
28 occupational centers or programs, and community college districts
29 shall have adopted an approved plan as required under this section.

30 (B) On or before July 1, 2009, school districts, regional
31 occupational centers or programs, and community college districts
32 shall have established course sequences as required under this
33 section that include at least one-third of the courses offered by the
34 regional occupational center or program in occupational areas in
35 which both the program or center and the community college offer
36 instruction.

37 (C) On or before July 1, 2010, school districts, regional
38 occupational centers or programs, and community college districts
39 shall have established course sequences as required under this
40 section that include at least two-thirds of the courses offered by

1 the regional occupational center or program in occupational areas
2 in which both the program or center and the community college
3 offer instruction.

4 ~~(D) On or before January 1, 2012, school districts, regional~~
5 ~~occupational centers or programs, and community college districts~~
6 ~~shall demonstrate that at least half of the course sequences offered~~
7 ~~for students in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, are linked to high priority~~
8 ~~workforce needs in the career sectors identified by the State~~
9 ~~Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the State~~
10 ~~of California, or for the economic region where the regional~~
11 ~~occupational center or program, community college district, or~~
12 ~~school district is located. School districts and regional occupational~~
13 ~~centers or programs operated in a rural county of the sixth, seventh,~~
14 ~~or eighth class, and school districts with an average daily~~
15 ~~attendance of fewer than 500 pupils are exempt from the~~
16 ~~requirements of this subparagraph. However, these exempted~~
17 ~~programs are encouraged to work with local workforce investment~~
18 ~~boards to ensure that students enrolled in career technical education~~
19 ~~programs will have obtained skills linked to the workforce needs~~
20 ~~in the region.~~

21 *(D) On or before July 1, 2013, school districts, regional*
22 *occupational centers or programs, and community college districts*
23 *shall demonstrate that at least one-half of the course sequences*
24 *offered are linked to high priority workforce needs in the career*
25 *sectors identified by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency*
26 *for the State of California, or for the economic region established*
27 *by the state where the regional occupational center or program,*
28 *community college district, or school district is located. School*
29 *districts, regional occupational centers or programs, and*
30 *community college districts are encouraged to work with local*
31 *workforce investment boards in the identification of career sectors*
32 *of high priority.*

33 (2) Provide pupils who are participating in vocational sequences
34 with information and experiences designed to increase their
35 postgraduation work and school options, including, but not limited
36 to, all of the following:

37 (A) Information about the admissions requirements of the
38 University of California and California State University.

39 (B) Information about the placement requirements of the local
40 community college or colleges.

1 (C) Information about higher education options related to the
2 interests of the pupil.

3 (D) Encourage visits to local colleges and universities offering
4 programs that allow pupils to gain additional skills and degrees in
5 related occupations.

6 (E) Information and referrals to employers for internships,
7 summer employment opportunities, and employment after
8 graduation from high school.

9 (3) School districts, regional occupational centers or programs,
10 and community college districts that do not develop course
11 sequences on or before the dates established under this subdivision,
12 and have not received a waiver under subdivision (d), shall enter
13 into a corrective action plan with the department and shall meet
14 any timelines established by the Superintendent.

15 (d) (1) The department, with the assistance of the Office of the
16 Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, shall meet with
17 each program or center and the community college or colleges in
18 the region no later than the 2009–10 fiscal year to validate that
19 course sequences meeting the requirements of this section have
20 been developed. These meetings shall be conducted using the
21 existing resources of the department and shall be consistent with
22 the standards developed pursuant to Section 51226.

23 (2) The department and the office of the chancellor shall provide
24 technical assistance to programs or centers and community colleges
25 that have developed articulated sequences for less than half of the
26 courses offered by the program or center.

27 (3) The Superintendent may waive the requirements of
28 subdivision (a) for programs or centers and community colleges
29 located in rural areas of the state if the Superintendent finds that
30 development of sequences is infeasible because of the distance,
31 travel time, or safety between the center or program and the
32 community college.