

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 16, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 6, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 646

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley

February 21, 2013

An act to add ~~and repeal~~ Chapter 1.3 (commencing with Section 10050) ~~of to~~ Part 7 of Division 1 of Title 1 of, *and to add and repeal Section 10051 of*, the Education Code, relating to public education governance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 646, as amended, Cooley. Public education governance: regional P-20 councils: advisory committee.

Existing law establishes a system of public elementary and secondary schools in this state, and authorizes local educational agencies throughout the state to operate schools and provide instruction to pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive (K–12). Existing law also establishes a system of public postsecondary education in the state that consists of 3 segments: the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to affirm the employer-education partnership model of a regional P-20 council, as defined, as a desired structure in California to help align preschool, K–12, community college, 4-year college, and graduate and professional education programs and funding to advance strategic educational and economic outcomes.

~~The~~

Contingent upon the enactment of an appropriation for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or another statute, this bill would require the State Department of Education, in consultation with specified entities, including, but not limited to, the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, to study best practices of state and regional P-20 councils in California and across the nation to identify key statewide policies and goals that P-20 councils may seek to further, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2015. These provisions would be repealed on July 1, 2020.

~~The provisions of the bill would be repealed on January 1, 2020.~~

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. Chapter 1.3 (commencing with Section 10050)
2 is added to Part 7 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code,
3 to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 1.3. REGIONAL P-20 COUNCILS
6

7 10050. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
8 following:

9 (1) The Federal Reserve has stated on its Internet Web site that
10 “[m]ost policymakers estimate the longer-run normal rate of
11 unemployment is between 5.2 and 6 percent.” The current rate of
12 unemployment in the United States is 7.4 percent. The
13 unemployment rates in both the County of Sacramento and
14 California are higher than the national unemployment rate.
15 According to a September 2013 brief by the California Budget
16 Project, “[i]f California’s job market continues to grow as it has
17 over the past year, the state will not recover the jobs lost due to
18 the Great Recession until January 2016,” but that this also
19 “understates how long it will actually take for the job market to
20 reach pre-recession strength” due to California’s increased
21 working-age population since 2007.

22 (2) P-16 councils were first established in several states in the
23 1990s to convene state leaders representing early learning (the “P”

1 stands for preschool) through the first four years of college (the
2 “16”). More recently, some states have extended the scope of these
3 councils to include doctoral and professional schools (the “20”).

4 (3) According to a 2008 report of the Education Commission
5 of the States, 38 states had established a P-16 or P-20 council and
6 11 states had regional P-16 or P-20 councils.

7 (4) It is increasingly recognized that regions are the units of
8 economic competition and an essential ingredient of economic
9 competitiveness is for regions to align educational assets to prepare
10 students for critical careers within key economic clusters. The
11 Sacramento region’s Next Economy initiative is one example of
12 a regional economic development strategy advancing these
13 objectives.

14 (5) Recent research affirms that aligning regional assets is a key
15 to advancing economic competitiveness; a Brookings Institution
16 Metropolitan Policy Program study has noted that “[r]egional
17 economies are differentiated, complex, and dynamic; improving
18 their performance entails customized and integrated strategies.”
19 An educated and suitably prepared workforce is a key element in
20 private sector job creation and job-related capital investment.

21 (6) Several examples of effective P-20 councils can be found
22 in California, including the Alliance for Education in San
23 Bernardino County, which is the Inland Empire’s premier
24 partnership between the business and education communities. Its
25 objective is “to achieve the goal of producing an educated and
26 skilled workforce that ensures the economic well-being for San
27 Bernardino County.”

28 (7) Recent state policy and funding priorities are intended to
29 promote the development and sustainability of pathways preparing
30 students across the P-20 spectrum for critical careers in the 21st
31 century economy.

32 (8) During hearings of the Assembly Select Committee on
33 Community and Neighborhood Development in July 2013,
34 witnesses stated that California’s future economic growth would
35 benefit from a concentrated effort aimed at establishing the
36 preconditions that support growth in jobs and private sector
37 investment in California communities. Such an approach would
38 be analogous to the high degree of regional coordination that is
39 typical for prioritizing and funding transportation improvements.

1 State and federal governments already require regional coordination
2 among local governments to prioritize transportation funding.

3 (9) California will benefit from a system of regional P-20
4 councils, composed of both employers and educational leaders of
5 educational entities that provide instruction for all levels from
6 early childhood learning to doctoral and professional programs,
7 to help align educational programs, policies, and funding to meet
8 strategic educational and economic objectives.

9 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to affirm the
10 employer-education partnership model of a regional P-20 council
11 as a desired structure in California to help align preschool, K-12,
12 community college, four-year college, and graduate and
13 professional education programs and funding to advance strategic
14 educational and economic outcomes.

15 10051. (a) ~~The~~ *Contingent upon the enactment of an*
16 *appropriation for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or another*
17 *statute, the* department shall study best practices of state and
18 regional P-20 councils in California and across the nation to
19 identify key statewide policies and goals that P-20 councils may
20 seek to further, and shall report its findings and recommendations
21 to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2015. The department shall
22 work in consultation with the Governor's Office of Business and
23 Economic Development, the office of the President of the
24 University of California, the office of the Chancellor of the
25 California State University, the office of the Chancellor of the
26 California Community Colleges, the Employment Development
27 Department, and the California Workforce Investment Board, as
28 well as related state and regional interests.

29 (b) (1) The report submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
30 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
31 Code.

32 (2) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this
33 section is repealed on July 1, 2020.