

Senate Bill No. 1348

Passed the Senate August 31, 2000

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 30, 2000

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2000, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor



CHAPTER _____

An act relating to parenting.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1348, Vasconcellos. Parenting education.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to superintend the schools of the state. Under existing law, responsibilities of the superintendent also include the administration of general child care and development programs.

This bill would require the superintendent, in consultation with the Secretary for Education, to submit a proposal to convene a summit, on or before September 1, 2001, regarding the advisability of developing a master plan for parenting education in nonschool settings. The bill would require the superintendent to convene and conduct the summit pursuant to the approved plan, and would require the various state departments to participate in the summit and collect, complete, and submit to the summit available research regarding, among other things, the causal relationship between the presence or absence of parenting skills and dysfunctional behavior. The bill would require the superintendent, in consultation with the secretary, to prepare a report with respect to parenting education and universal parenting education, and to submit the report to the State Board of Education and the Legislature on or before January 1, 2002.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Our failure to prepare young Californians to make informed, wise choices regarding whether to become, and how to be good, healthy, and effective parents results in too many unwise choices and too little healthy parenting for the next generation of Californians.



(b) Research indicates that over 50 percent of Californians imprisoned for violent crime were abused as children.

(c) Providing early and smart parenting education to every California pupil would help us overcome set failures.

(d) There are a variety of parenting education programs in a variety of venues throughout California, differing in their availability and in their accessibility with regard to geography, time, and location.

(e) The State of California must recognize, encourage, and build upon, rather than duplicate, the effective and available parenting education programs.

(f) The State of California must identify venues in which effective parenting education is not available, and strive to ensure access to parenting education in those venues.

(g) Every Californian must recognize the need, responsibility, and opportunity to prepare himself or herself better to become a healthy parent.

(h) Every California institution must recognize its responsibility, duty, and capacity to engage itself in supporting the development of Californians into healthier parents.

(i) The private sector, through major policy development foundations such as the California Wellness Foundation, has begun to recognize the fundamental benefits of parenting education in preventing crime and violence.

(j) The state should study particular strategies that are proving successful in effectively reaching and providing parenting education to the most vulnerable of our population.

SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act that the State of California convene a top level statewide summit to determine whether parenting education should be provided to every young Californian and, if so, to design for submission to the Legislature for its consideration, a comprehensive strategic action plan for ensuring that every young Californian gain the



benefit of parenting education, in hopes of fostering the development of healthier parents, and thereby healthier families, children and adults.

SEC. 3. (a) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall design, in consultation with the Secretary for Education, and shall submit for consideration, possible revision, and approval, to the State Board of Education, a proposal to convene a summit, on or about September 1, 2001, for the purpose of assessing whether it would be smart and wise for the state of California to develop a master plan for parenting education in nonschool settings. Upon approval of the proposal, the superintendent shall convene and conduct the parenting education summit pursuant to the approved plan.

(b) The summit shall include interested parties of all ideologies and persuasions, including significant representation from diverse communities, experts in parenting issues, family and child development experts, representatives of current providers, academic experts, business leaders, faith leaders, health professionals, experts in public school parenting education programs, parents, and children.

(c) The director, or his or her designee, of each of the following departments shall participate in the summit as provided in subdivision (d):

- (1) The Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- (2) The Chairperson of the State Board of Education.
- (3) The Secretary for Education.
- (4) The State Department of Health Services.
- (5) The State Department of Social Services.
- (6) The State Department of Mental Health.
- (7) The State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.
- (8) The Department of the Youth Authority.
- (9) The Board of Corrections.
- (10) The Department of Corrections.
- (11) The Attorney General.

(d) To the extent that his or her department has jurisdiction, each director of a department listed in subdivision (c) shall collect, complete, and submit to the



summit the best research available regarding what it takes to develop a whole child with healthy self-esteem and a healthy sense of personal and social responsibility and regarding the causal relationship between good and healthy parenting, or the lack thereof, to dysfunctional behavior, as well as the costs for providing this universal parenting education. The research submitted to the summit shall also address the public costs that result from dysfunctional behavior.

(e) The objectives of the summit shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Development of an inventory of all parenting education programs currently available in California.

(2) Determination of whether universal parenting education for every young Californian would improve the public health and safety of all Californians.

(3) If it is found to be valuable, the following shall be included as part of a proposed master plan to be submitted to the Legislature for its consideration.

(A) Development of a method by which parents of newborns may receive parenting education in an appropriate range of public and private nonschool settings.

(B) Identification of the classifications of licensed professionals who would be the most appropriate educators of parenting skills in nonschool settings, assessment of the need for the establishment of instructor training and continuing education requirements for these professionals, and development of mechanisms by which these professionals can be engaged in the practice of parenting education.

(C) Development of a method and curriculum in juvenile court school, homes, ranches, camps, and forestry camps, as well as a method for making parenting education available to all public high school students.

(D) Creation of a means for coordinating parenting education services, in consultation with the State Department of Education.



(E) Identification of the ways and means for developing the funding for the various options for parenting education.

(F) Identification and development of additional methods by which each of the state departments participating in this summit can ensure that Californians receive effective and useful parenting education.

(f) The superintendent, in consultation with the Secretary for Education, shall prepare a report with respect to parenting education and universal parenting education, including, if he or she concludes that it would be valuable to do so, organizing the recommendations of the summit into a proposed California master plan for parenting education. The report shall be submitted to the State Board of Education for its consideration, possible revision, and adoption. The report shall then be submitted to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2002.

(g) The State Department of Education shall make every reasonable effort to secure private funding to underwrite the cost of this summit.

(h) The State Department of Education shall not be responsible for travel costs and per diem associated with this summit for any participant, except when required by state law or administrative policy.

(i) After making copies of the proposed master plan available to the Legislature and appropriate persons in the executive branch, the State Department of Education may make additional copies available to interested persons at a reasonable charge to cover costs of printing and mailing.



Approved _____, 2000

Governor

