

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 18, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 30, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 507

Introduced by Senator Torlakson

February 22, 2007

An act to add and repeal Chapter 6.95 (commencing with Section 52115) of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to science instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 507, as amended, Torlakson. Schools: science instruction: grant program.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, to include instruction, beginning in grade 1 and continuing through grade 6, in specified areas of study, including, but not limited to, science, including the biological and physical aspects, with emphasis on the processes of experimental inquiry and on the place of humans in ecological systems. The course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, also is required to include courses in science. Various programs are established to provide grants for enhanced educational opportunities for pupils.

This bill would establish the Science Instruction Augmentation Grant Program, to be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program would require the Superintendent to award 40 grants from the General Fund, not to exceed \$2,000,000 in total, to local educational agencies that maintain kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive,

and to award 600 grants, not to exceed \$3,000,000 in total to local educational agencies that maintain *any of* grades 7 to 12, inclusive, for specified science education purposes and equipment. The Superintendent would be required to award grants pursuant to the program first to schools with a high percentage of pupils living in poverty, as described, and that meet certain other requirements. Beginning January 1, 2010, local educational agencies would be required to submit a report to the Superintendent with specified information, and beginning January 30, 2010, the Superintendent would be required to report certain information to the Legislature each year. The bill would make the implementation of its provisions contingent upon the appropriation of funds for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or other statute.

This bill would make these provisions inoperative on July 1, 2013, and would repeal them as of January 1, 2014.

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 all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Due to the emphasis on math and reading in the curricula of
- 4 kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and the limited time in
- 5 the schoolday, science is taught in varying degrees in each
- 6 classroom in which those grades are taught.
- 7 (b) Academics agree that it is important to spark the interest of
- 8 pupils in science at an early age in order to develop curiosity and
- 9 critical thinking skills.
- 10 (c) The majority of the multisubject credentialed teachers of
- 11 kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, do not have a strong
- 12 academic background in science, are therefore less comfortable
- 13 with the material, and are less likely to place an emphasis on
- 14 science.
- 15 (d) Former astronaut Sally K. Ride formed the Sally Ride
- 16 Science Club to address the science, technology, engineering, and
- 17 mathematics (STEM) gender gap, the lack of women in STEM
- 18 professions.
- 19 (e) The National Center for Education Statistics reported in its
- 20 “Trends in Educational Equity of Girls & Women” in 2000 that

1 the percentages of girls interested in STEM careers decreases from
2 66 percent in grade 4 to 48 percent in grade 12.

3 (f) Studies show that improved teacher knowledge and training
4 results in increased pupil learning and success.

5 SEC. 2. Chapter 6.95 (commencing with Section 52115) is
6 added to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code,
7 to read:

8

9 CHAPTER 6.95. SCIENCE INSTRUCTION AUGMENTATION GRANT
10 PROGRAM

11

12 52115. For purposes of this chapter, “local educational agency”
13 means a school district, county office of education, or charter
14 school.

15 52116. (a) The Science Instruction Augmentation Grant
16 Program is hereby established and shall be administered by the
17 Superintendent.

18 (b) The program shall provide grants to public school districts
19 that maintain kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, for
20 the purposes of providing greater access to science education and
21 promoting knowledge, curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and
22 interest in all aspects of science.

23 (c) Funds apportioned pursuant to this chapter shall supplement
24 and not supplant existing expenditures by the local educational
25 agencies receiving grants.

26 (d) To be eligible to receive a grant under this chapter, a
27 representative of the applicant local educational agency shall certify
28 that an annual program audit will be conducted and that adequate,
29 accurate records will be maintained. In addition, each applicant
30 shall provide the Superintendent with the assurance that grant
31 funds received pursuant to this chapter will be expended only for
32 the purposes for which they are granted. The Superintendent shall
33 require grant recipients to submit annual budget reports, and the
34 Superintendent may withhold funds in subsequent years if grant
35 funds are expended for purposes other than as awarded.

36 (e) The implementation of this chapter is contingent upon the
37 appropriation of funds for its purposes in the annual Budget Act
38 or other statute.

39 52117. (a) The Superintendent shall award 40 grants from the
40 General Fund, not to exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in

1 total, to various local ~~education~~ *educational* agencies that maintain
 2 kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive, for the purposes
 3 of hiring traveling science teachers and purchasing science
 4 equipment that the teacher would require to provide science
 5 education. *Science instruction provided by a traveling science*
 6 *teacher shall supplement and not supplant existing science*
 7 *instruction by classroom teachers.*

8 (b) For purposes of this section:

9 (1) “Traveling science teacher” means a teacher that travels
 10 from classroom to classroom, school to school, ~~district to school~~
 11 *district to school* district, or any combination thereof, to provide
 12 science activities and instruction to elementary school ~~students~~
 13 *pupils*, and is dedicated solely to the teaching of science to
 14 elementary school pupils. A traveling science teacher may hold a
 15 single-subject preliminary or professional clear credential in
 16 science; a multiple-subject preliminary or professional clear
 17 credential with an academic or industrial background in science;
 18 or a multiple-subject preliminary or professional clear credential.
 19 A traveling science teacher holding a preliminary credential must
 20 be a participant in a certification program toward a professional
 21 clear credential and must receive that credential no more than three
 22 years after the date he or she enters a classroom to comply with
 23 the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301
 24 et seq.).

25 (2) “Science equipment” means ~~any~~ equipment appropriate to
 26 teaching the science content standards and particularly the
 27 experimentation and investigation standards, including, but not
 28 limited to, measuring devices, balances, scales, containers,
 29 microscopes, and magnifiers for use in science education
 30 instruction. Funds ~~may~~ *shall* not be used to purchase textbooks.

31 (c) The Superintendent shall award grants based upon the
 32 following criteria:

33 (1) First, to local educational agencies with schools that have a
 34 high percentage of ~~students~~ *pupils* living in poverty, as determined
 35 by the percentage of pupils eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

36 (2) Second, to all other local educational agencies that apply
 37 for funds.

38 (d) The Superintendent shall require the recipient local
 39 educational agency to provide a 50 percent match of its own funds
 40 to be used for purposes of this section, which may come from any

1 public or private source, based on the amount of funds apportioned
2 and the financial means of the local educational agency.

3 (e) Funds apportioned pursuant to this section shall be used for
4 the purposes set forth in subdivision (a).

5 (f) Local educational agencies that are selected to receive grants
6 pursuant to this section are eligible to continue to receive grant
7 awards on an ongoing basis in subsequent fiscal years to the extent
8 that the agency continues to demonstrate the need for the funds
9 awarded according to this section.

10 52118. (a) The Superintendent shall award 600 grants from
11 the General Fund, not to exceed three million dollars (\$3,000,000)
12 in total, to local educational agencies that maintain *any of* grades
13 7 to 12, inclusive, to purchase science laboratory equipment for
14 science laboratory instruction.

15 (b) For purposes of this section, “science laboratory equipment”
16 means equipment appropriate to teaching the science content
17 standards, including, but not limited to, digital measurement
18 devices, probeware, and laboratory glassware. Funds ~~may~~ *shall*
19 not be used to purchase textbooks.

20 (c) The Superintendent shall award grants based upon the
21 following criteria:

22 (1) First, to local educational agencies with schools that have a
23 high percentage of pupils living in poverty, as determined by the
24 percentage of pupils eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

25 (2) Second, to all other local educational agencies that apply
26 for funds.

27 (d) The Superintendent shall require the recipient local
28 educational agency to provide a 50 percent match of its own funds
29 to be used for purposes of this section, which may come from any
30 public or private source, based on the amount of funds apportioned
31 and the financial means of the local educational agency.

32 (e) Funds apportioned pursuant to this section shall be used for
33 the purposes set forth in subdivision (a).

34 (f) Local educational agencies that are selected to receive grants
35 pursuant to this section are eligible to continue to receive grant
36 awards on an ongoing basis in subsequent fiscal years to the extent
37 that they continue to demonstrate the need for the funds awarded
38 according to this section.

39 52119. (a) On January 1, 2010, and every year thereafter, local
40 educational agencies that are selected to receive grants pursuant

1 to this chapter shall submit a report to the Superintendent on or
2 before January 1 with the following information:

3 (1) Sources and amounts of local matching funds received.

4 (2) Equipment purchased.

5 (3) The number of pupils and classrooms served.

6 (b) On January 30, 2010, and every year thereafter, the
7 Superintendent shall report to the Legislature on or before January
8 30 on all of the following:

9 (1) The local educational agencies served pursuant to this
10 chapter.

11 (2) The services provided pursuant to this chapter.

12 (3) The educational technology needs in California schools.

13 (4) The extent to which current state-funded support is meeting
14 the needs set forth in this chapter.

15 (5) Recommendations on actions that could be taken to better
16 meet current and emerging needs for support in the use of science
17 instruction and laboratory equipment.

18 52120. This chapter shall become inoperative on July 1, 2013,
19 and, as of January 1, 2014, is repealed, unless a later enacted
20 statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2014,
21 deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and
22 is repealed.