

Senate Bill No. 300

CHAPTER 624

An act to add and repeal Section 60605.85 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

[Approved by Governor October 8, 2011. Filed with
Secretary of State October 8, 2011.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 300, Hancock. Pupil instruction: instructional materials: content standards.

Existing law, which became inoperative on July 1, 2011, and is to be repealed on January 1, 2014, requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide academic content standards and performance standards, based on the recommendation of the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, respectively, and authorizes the state board to modify any proposed content standard or performance standard prior to its adoption.

This bill would require the state board to adopt science content standards pursuant to specified requirements. The bill would require the Superintendent to convene a group of science experts with whom the Superintendent would be required to recommend science content standards for adoption to the state board. The bill would require the Superintendent to hold at least 2 public meetings to provide public input on the science content standards. The bill would require the Superintendent to present the recommended science content standards to the state board by March 30, 2013, and would require the state board to adopt, reject, or modify those standards, as specified, by July 30, 2013. The bill would require the Superintendent and the state board to present to the Governor and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature a schedule and implementation plan for integrating the adopted science content standards into the state educational system. The bill would repeal these provisions on July 1, 2014.

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

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

- (a) It is widely acknowledged that California has the eighth largest economy in the world.
- (b) California must develop scientifically and technologically literate citizens in order to maintain our edge in the world economy.
- (c) The state's current science content standards do not include any mention of biotechnologies or nanotechnologies, and they do not require

pupils to learn about environmental issues or the fact that Pluto is no longer considered a planet.

(d) The state's science content standards were developed in 1998 and are now 13 years old.

(e) There is nothing in current law that requires science content standards to be reviewed and updated.

SEC. 2. Section 60605.85 is added to the Education Code, to read:

60605.85. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the state board shall adopt science content standards pursuant to the following requirements:

(1) The Superintendent, in consultation with the state board, shall convene a group of science experts. The Superintendent shall ensure that the members of the group of science experts include, but are not limited to, individuals who are elementary and secondary science teachers, schoolsite principals, school district or county office of education administrators, and university professors. The Superintendent and the group of science experts shall recommend science content standards for adoption to the state board and shall utilize the Next Generation Science Standards as the basis for their deliberations and recommendations to the state board.

(2) The Superintendent shall hold a minimum of two public meetings pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) in order for the public to provide input on the science content standards that would be recommended pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) The Superintendent shall present the recommended science content standards to the state board on or before March 30, 2013.

(4) On or before July 30, 2013, the state board shall adopt, reject, or modify the science content standards presented by the Superintendent.

(5) If the state board modifies the science content standards presented by the Superintendent, it shall provide written reasons for its modifications in a public meeting. The state board shall adopt its modifications to the science content standards at a subsequent public meeting held no later than July 30, 2013. The public meetings required by this paragraph shall be held pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(b) The Superintendent and the state board shall present to the Governor and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature a schedule and implementation plan for integrating the science content standards adopted pursuant to this section into the state educational system.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until July 1, 2014, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before July 1, 2014, deletes or extends that date.