

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

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 646**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Cooley**

February 21, 2013

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An act to add *and repeal* Chapter 1.3 (commencing with Section 10050) ~~to~~ of Part 7 of Division 1 of Title 1 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 bill would require the ~~Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, on or before July 1, 2015, to establish an~~

~~advisory committee on P-20 councils, with designated membership, to serve as a clearinghouse for ideas of how these councils are working and to identify key statewide education policies and goals that P-20 councils may seek to further. The bill would authorize a school district, community college district, or campus of the California State University or University of California to establish or participate in a regional P-20 council, and authorize a regional P-20 council to include representatives of private sector employers. The bill would require a regional P-20 council established under the bill to identify educational objectives that are consistent with the objectives of council members and with statewide education policies and goals. 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.~~

~~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

1 the Great Recession until January 2016,” but that this also  
2 “understates how long it will actually take for the job market to  
3 reach pre-recession strength” due to California’s increased  
4 working-age population since 2007.

5 (2) P-16 councils were first established in several states in the  
6 1990s to convene state leaders representing early learning (the “P”  
7 stands for preschool) through the first four years of college (the  
8 “16”). More recently, some states have extended the scope of these  
9 councils to include doctoral and professional schools (the “20”).

10 (3) According to a 2008 report of the Education Commission  
11 of the States, 38 states had established a P-16 or P-20 council and  
12 11 states had regional P-16 or P-20 councils.

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

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

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

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

38 (8) During hearings of the Assembly Select Committee on  
39 Community and Neighborhood Development in July 2013,  
40 witnesses stated that California’s future economic growth would

1 benefit from a concentrated effort aimed at establishing the  
2 preconditions that support growth in jobs and private sector  
3 investment in California communities. Such an approach would  
4 be analogous to the high degree of regional coordination that is  
5 typical for prioritizing and funding transportation improvements.  
6 State and federal governments already require regional coordination  
7 among local governments to prioritize transportation funding.

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

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

20 ~~10051. The Governor's Office of Business and Economic~~  
21 ~~Development, on or before July 1, 2015, shall establish an advisory~~  
22 ~~committee on P-20 councils to serve as a clearinghouse for ideas~~  
23 ~~of how these councils are working and to identify key statewide~~  
24 ~~education policies and goals that P-20 councils may seek to further.~~  
25 ~~The advisory committee shall include representatives of the offices~~  
26 ~~of the President of the University of California, the Chancellor of~~  
27 ~~the California State University, the Chancellor of the California~~  
28 ~~Community Colleges, the Employment Development Department,~~  
29 ~~the State Department of Education, the Department of Industrial~~  
30 ~~Relations, and representatives of no more than three employer~~  
31 ~~advisory councils.~~

32 ~~10052. (a) A school district, community college district, or~~  
33 ~~campus of the California State University or University of~~  
34 ~~California may establish or participate in a regional P-20 council,~~  
35 ~~which may include representatives of regional private sector~~  
36 ~~employers as well as public educational entities.~~

37 ~~(b) A regional P-20 council established under this section shall~~  
38 ~~identify educational objectives that are consistent with the~~  
39 ~~objectives of council members and with statewide education~~  
40 ~~policies and goals.~~

1 ~~(e) A regional P-20 council shall be aligned, as much as feasible,~~  
2 ~~with the regional structures in the State Department of Education,~~  
3 ~~the California Community Colleges, and the Department of~~  
4 ~~Industrial Relations.~~

5 ~~(d) A school district or community college district that~~  
6 ~~participates in a regional P-20 council may establish eligibility for~~  
7 ~~funding under the Career Technical Education Pathways Program~~  
8 ~~(Part 52 (commencing with Section 88530) of Division 7 of Title~~  
9 ~~3), contingent on the district's conformity with the standards of~~  
10 ~~that program and the availability of funds.~~

11 *10051. (a) The department shall study best practices of state*  
12 *and regional P-20 councils in California and across the nation to*  
13 *identify key statewide policies and goals that P-20 councils may*  
14 *seek to further, and shall report its findings and recommendations*  
15 *to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2015. The department shall*  
16 *work in consultation with the Governor's Office of Business and*  
17 *Economic Development, the office of the President of the University*  
18 *of California, the office of the Chancellor of the California State*  
19 *University, the office of the Chancellor of the California*  
20 *Community Colleges, the Employment Development Department,*  
21 *and the California Workforce Investment Board, as well as related*  
22 *state and regional interests.*

23 *(b) (1) The report submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall*  
24 *be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government*  
25 *Code.*

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

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