

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1854

Introduced by Assembly Member Linder

February 19, 2014

An act to add Chapter 19 (commencing with Section 53400) to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1854, as introduced, Linder. Examination fees: Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Examination Fee Grant Program.

Existing law authorizes a system of incentives to encourage high schools to operate International Baccalaureate Diploma Programs, and to encourage pupils in these schools to enroll in, attempt, and pass the International Baccalaureate course of study and examinations that lead to the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, from funds appropriated for the purpose of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, to annually allocate to each school district, on behalf of each high school or middle school within the district that offers the program, up to \$25,000 for each participating high school and middle school to cover the costs of professional development required by the program and to help pay the test fees for low- and middle-income pupils in need of financial assistance.

Existing law authorizes a school district receiving economic impact aid funds to expend any portion of those funds to pay for all or part of the costs of one or more advanced placement examinations that are charged to economically disadvantaged pupils, as defined.

This bill would, subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act, establish a grant program, administered by the State Department of Education, for the purpose of awarding grants to cover the costs of advanced placement examination fees or International Baccalaureate examination fees, or both, for eligible economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils, as defined. The bill would authorize a school district to apply to the department for grant funding under the program based on the number of economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils in the school district who will take the next offered advanced placement or International Baccalaureate examinations and would require that grants be expended only to pay the fees required of eligible economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils to take an advanced placement or International Baccalaureate examination, or both. The bill would authorize an eligible economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupil enrolled in an advanced placement or International Baccalaureate course, or both, to apply to the designated school district staff for a grant to pay the examination fee, as provided. The bill would require funding priority be given to advanced placement examination fees if there is insufficient funding allocated to the grant program in a given fiscal year.

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 19 (commencing with Section 53400)
 2 is added to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code,
 3 to read:

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 5 CHAPTER 19. ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
 6 BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATION FEE GRANT PROGRAM

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 8 53400. (a) Subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act
 9 for this purpose, there is hereby established a grant program for
 10 the purpose of awarding grants to cover the costs of advanced
 11 placement (AP) examination fees or International Baccalaureate
 12 (IB) examination fees, or both, for eligible economically
 13 disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils. The department
 14 shall administer this program.

1 (b) (1) As used in this section, “eligible economically
2 disadvantaged high school pupil” means a pupil in high school
3 who is eligible for a state or federal free or reduced-price meal
4 program.

5 (2) As used in this section, “eligible foster youth” has the same
6 meaning as “foster youth,” as that term is defined in Section
7 42238.01.

8 (c) A school district may apply to the department for grant
9 funding pursuant to this section, based on the number of
10 economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils in
11 the school district enrolled in AP courses or IB courses, or in both,
12 who will take the next offered AP or IB examinations. A school
13 district that applies to the department for this purpose shall
14 designate school district staff to whom pupils may submit
15 applications for grants and shall institute a plan to notify pupils of
16 the availability of financial assistance pursuant to this section.
17 Grants shall be expended only to pay the fees required of eligible
18 economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils to
19 take an AP or IB examination, or both.

20 (d) An eligible economically disadvantaged or foster youth high
21 school pupil who is enrolled in an AP or IB course, or both, may
22 apply to the designated school district staff for a grant pursuant to
23 this section. A pupil who receives a grant shall only pay five dollars
24 (\$5) of the examination fee.

25 (e) School districts and county superintendents of schools may
26 join together and form collaboratives or consortia in order to
27 participate in the grant program established by this section.

28 (f) Grants provided pursuant to this section may not be used to
29 supplant fee waivers available to low-income pupils who take AP
30 or IB examinations.

31 (g) If the total school district applications exceed the total funds
32 available pursuant to this section, the department shall prorate the
33 grants based upon the ratio of the total amount requested to the
34 total amount allocated in the annual Budget Act or another statute
35 for this purpose. Funding priority shall be given to AP examination
36 fees if there is insufficient funding allocated for the grant program
37 in a given fiscal year.

38 (h) To facilitate program administration and school district
39 reimbursement, the department may enter into a contract with the
40 provider of AP or IB examinations. For purposes of the contract

1 authorized pursuant to this subdivision, the department is exempt
2 from the requirements of Part 2 (commencing with Section 10100)
3 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code and from the
4 requirements of Article 6 (commencing with Section 999) of
5 Chapter 6 of Division 4 of the Military and Veterans Code.

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