

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

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 amended, 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 *or charter school* 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 *or charter school* 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 *or charter school* 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:

4
5 CHAPTER 19. ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
6 BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATION FEE GRANT PROGRAM
7

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

1 disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils. The department
2 shall administer this program.

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

7 (2) As used in this section, “eligible foster youth” has the same
8 meaning as “foster youth,” as that term is defined in Section
9 42238.01.

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

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

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

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

34 (g) If the total ~~school district~~ applications *from school districts*
35 *and charter schools* exceed the total funds available pursuant to
36 this section, the department shall prorate the grants based upon
37 the ratio of the total amount requested to the total amount allocated
38 in the annual Budget Act or another statute for this purpose.
39 ~~Funding priority shall be given to AP examination fees if there is~~

1 ~~insufficient funding allocated for the grant program in a given~~
2 ~~fiscal year.~~

3 (h) To facilitate program administration and school district *or*
4 *charter school* reimbursement, the department may enter into a
5 contract with the provider of AP or IB examinations. For purposes
6 of the contract authorized pursuant to this subdivision, the
7 department is exempt from the requirements of Part 2 (commencing
8 with Section 10100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code
9 and from the requirements of Article 6 (commencing with Section
10 999) of Chapter 6 of Division 4 of the Military and Veterans Code.