

Senate Bill No. 581

CHAPTER 91

An act to amend Sections 15280 and 15286 of the Education Code, relating to school bonds.

[Approved by Governor August 12, 2013. Filed with
Secretary of State August 12, 2013.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 581, Wyland. School bonds: bond accountability.

The California Constitution limits the maximum amount of any ad valorem tax on real property to 1% of the full cash value of the property except for ad valorem taxes or assessments that pay the interest and redemption charges on bonded indebtedness incurred by a school district, community college district, or county office of education for the construction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities approved by 55% of the voters if the proposition includes specified accountability requirements. These accountability requirements include a requirement that the governing board of either the school district or community college district or county office of education conduct annual independent performance and financial audits. Existing law requires, by March 31 of each year, the annual, independent financial and performance audits for the preceding fiscal year to be submitted to a citizens' oversight committee that is required to be established if a proposition is approved by the voters, as described above. Existing law requires, without expending bond funds, the governing board of the district to provide the citizens' oversight committee with any necessary technical assistance and administrative assistance and sufficient resources to publicize the conclusions of the citizens' oversight committee.

This bill would require the annual, independent financial and performance audits to be submitted to the citizens' oversight committee at the same time they are submitted to the school district or community college district. The bill would also require the governing board of the district to provide the citizens' oversight committee with responses to any and all findings, recommendations, and concerns addressed in the annual, independent financial and performance audits within 3 months of receiving the audits.

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

SECTION 1. Section 15280 of the Education Code is amended to read:

15280. (a) (1) The governing board of the district shall, without expending bond funds, provide the citizens' oversight committee with any necessary technical assistance and shall provide administrative assistance

in furtherance of its purpose and sufficient resources to publicize the conclusions of the citizens' oversight committee.

(2) The governing board of the district shall provide the citizens' oversight committee with responses to any and all findings, recommendations, and concerns addressed in the annual, independent financial and performance audits required by subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution within three months of receiving the audits.

(b) All citizens' oversight committee proceedings shall be open to the public and notice to the public shall be provided in the same manner as the proceedings of the governing board of the district. The citizens' oversight committee shall issue regular reports on the results of its activities. A report shall be issued at least once a year. Minutes of the proceedings of the citizens' oversight committee and all documents received and reports issued shall be a matter of public record and be made available on an Internet Web site maintained by the governing board of the district.

SEC. 2. Section 15286 of the Education Code is amended to read:

15286. Consistent with the provisions contained in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, the required annual, independent financial and performance audits for the preceding fiscal year shall be submitted to the citizens' oversight committee established pursuant to Section 15278 at the same time they are submitted to the school district or community college district, no later than March 31 of each year. These audits shall be conducted in accordance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States for financial and performance audits.