

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 916**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member O'Donnell**

February 26, 2015

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An act relating to career technical education, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 916, as introduced, O'Donnell. Career technical education: student organizations: funding.

Existing law provides funding for various career technical education programs, including regional occupational centers and programs, specialized secondary programs, partnership academies, and agricultural career technical education programs.

This bill would appropriate the sum of \$1,170,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Education for the purposes of allocating funds in support of career technical education student organizations, as specified. The bill would also express various findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to career technical education.

Funds appropriated by this bill would be applied toward the minimum funding requirements for school districts and community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

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

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

1 (a) Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) have long  
2 been recognized for their contribution in developing leadership  
3 skills and other “soft skill” competencies to pupils involved in  
4 high-quality career technical education programs and courses.

5 (b) The programs and activities of CTSOs play an integral part  
6 in the effective delivery of career technical education programs  
7 and courses, and motivate many pupils to further develop their  
8 leadership potential.

9 (c) Funding for the programs and activities of CTSOs were cut  
10 from the annual Budget Act during the recent budget crisis,  
11 resulting in a tremendous loss of opportunities for pupils enrolled  
12 in career technical education programs and courses.

13 (d) CTSOs chartered in California include Cal-Health  
14 Occupation Student Association (Cal-HOSA) for health career  
15 pupils; the California Future Farmers of America (California FFA)  
16 for pupils studying agriculture and its related careers; the Future  
17 Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for pupils enrolled in  
18 business courses; Future Homemakers of America - Home  
19 Economics Related Occupations (FHA-HERO) for pupils interested  
20 in home economics related occupations; Distributive Education  
21 Clubs of America (DECA) for pupils engaged in marketing  
22 programs; and SkillsUSA for pupils interested in transportation,  
23 arts, media, entertainment, engineering, and construction.

24 (e) High school graduates of CTSOs serve as industry leaders  
25 on boards, commissions, in elected offices, and as executive  
26 officers in businesses both in California and worldwide.

27 (f) Student leadership is an important part of every career  
28 technical education program. CTSOs, and the opportunities they  
29 provide, separate career technical education programs and courses  
30 from the typical experiences pupils receive.

31 SEC. 2. (a) The sum of one million one hundred seventy  
32 thousand dollars (\$1,170,000) is appropriated from the General  
33 Fund to the State Department of Education, to be allocate in support  
34 of career technical education student organizations for purposes  
35 of supporting youth leadership development programs and  
36 activities, training teachers who advise these student organizations,  
37 maintaining affiliation with national career technical education  
38 organizations, and supplying support services necessary to carry  
39 out these activities.(b) For purposes of making the computations  
40 required by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution,

1 the funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall be deemed to  
2 be “General Fund revenues appropriated for school districts,” as  
3 defined in subdivision (c) of Section 41202 of the Education Code,  
4 for the 2015–16 fiscal year, and included within the “total  
5 allocations to school districts and community college districts from  
6 General Fund proceeds of taxes appropriated pursuant to Article  
7 XIII B,” as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 41202 of the  
8 Education Code, for the 2015–16 fiscal year.

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