

Assembly Bill No. 3317

CHAPTER 296

An act to add Section 35700.1 to the Education Code, relating to school district reorganization.

[Approved by Governor July 25, 1996. Filed with
Secretary of State July 25, 1996.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3317, Margett. School district reorganization; Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Existing law authorizes the reorganization of school districts, which may be initiated upon the filing with the county superintendent of schools of a petition to reorganize one or more school districts signed by a specified number of registered voters, specified property owners, or the majority of the members of the governing boards of the school districts that would be affected by the proposed reorganization. Existing law places other responsibilities on the county superintendent of schools with respect to the reorganization process.

This bill would authorize county superintendents of schools to provide the following assistance with respect to efforts to reorganize one or more school districts: (1) provide assistance prior to the initiation of an action to reorganize, as specified; (2) process and evaluate multiple petitions, as specified; and (3) provide assistance to newly reorganized school districts during the interim period.

This bill would prohibit the Los Angeles County Office of Education from using funds allocated to it pursuant to the Budget Act to instigate, solicit, or promote the development of plans to reorganize school districts, except as specified.

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

SECTION 1. Section 35700.1 is added to the Education Code, to read:

35700.1. (a) A county superintendent of schools may do any of the following, as necessary, with respect to the reorganization of school districts within the jurisdiction of a county superintendent of schools:

(1) Prior to the initiation of an action to reorganize, a county superintendent of schools may do any of the following:

(A) Provide information, coordination, and guidance to potential petitioners for reorganization and to other parties inquiring about the petition process.



(B) Provide procedural advice and counseling.

(C) Provide information and assistance for community meetings, information sessions, and briefing sessions.

(D) Provide for coordination of media and community relations.

(2) A county superintendent of schools may perform the following duties for the processing and evaluation of multiple petitions to reorganize one or more school districts:

(A) Ensure compliance with all requirements pertaining to the petitions.

(B) Ensure compliance with all required timelines or deadlines for petitions.

(C) Apply new and preexisting evaluation criteria to the petition.

(3) A county superintendent of schools may provide assistance to newly reorganized school districts during the interim period, as follows:

(A) To ensure smooth transitions with minimum disruption to pupils and staff.

(B) To provide advisory and consulting expertise on any of the following:

(i) Board and administrative policies and regulations.

(ii) Personnel policies.

(iii) Curriculum.

(iv) Instructional programs and services.

(v) Financial and budgeting functions.

(vi) Distribution of assets and liabilities.

(b) No funds allocated to the Los Angeles County Office of Education pursuant to the Budget Act shall be used to instigate, solicit, or promote the development of plans to reorganize a school district or school districts within the jurisdiction of the county office of education; provided, however, that the funds may be used to support the research necessary to review and make recommendations regarding reorganization plans that are submitted to the county office of education.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that due to unique circumstances regarding the Los Angeles County Office of Education, a general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution.

