

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 29, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 16, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1774

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 23, 2000

An act to add Section 10910.2 to the Education Code, relating to computer access, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1774, as amended, Bowen. Computer access.

Existing law authorizes school districts to organize, promote, and conduct programs of community recreation as well as contribute to the attainment of general educational and recreational objectives for children and adults of the state. Existing law declares that it is in the interest of the people and of the state that there be a general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence through the establishment and operation of public libraries.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to establish a grant program to encourage schools to keep their computer facilities open and available to their pupils and their families—and. *The bill would also require the State Librarian to encourage public libraries and public access computer technology centers, as defined, that have Internet*

access to extend the hours and days during which access is available to the public. The bill would provide grant funds to cover the additional costs incurred by the schools, libraries, and public access computer technology centers as well as provide for the cost of technical assistance at a level determined by the State Department of Education *and the State Librarian, respectively*. The bill would require the grant program to establish preferences, as specified. The bill would require that a grant made under the program not exceed \$100,000. The bill would require grantees to hire staff and recruit volunteers with appropriate levels of computer knowledge and expertise and would require a school to implement a program that enlists pupil volunteers to provide technical support as a condition to receiving the grant.

The bill would appropriate an unspecified sum from the General Fund ~~to the State Department of Education~~, according to a specified schedule, to fund the grant programs.

Vote: ²/₃. 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
2 the following:

3 (a) The ability to use a computer and the Internet are
4 becoming critical skills that are necessary for full
5 participation in modern society.

6 (b) The disparate access to computers and the
7 Internet is known as the “digital divide” and is related to
8 an individual’s income, ethnicity, and geographic
9 location. The digital divide disadvantages people by
10 denying them an equal opportunity to educate
11 themselves, avail themselves of economic opportunities,
12 participate in electronic commerce, and access
13 information.

14 (c) A cost-effective way of helping to bridge the digital
15 divide is to provide educational and training
16 opportunities to pupils as well as provide general access
17 to the public through the extended use of schools,
18 libraries, and other public access computer centers.



SEC. 2. Section 10910.2 is added to the Education Code, to read:

10910.2. (a) The State Department of Education shall establish a grant program to encourage schools to keep their computer facilities open and available to their pupils and their families, and *the State Librarian shall establish a grant program* to encourage public libraries and public access computer technology centers that have Internet access to extend the hours and days during which access is available to the public. The grants shall cover the additional costs, excluding costs for the construction or lease of the facilities, incurred by a school, public access computer technology center, or library as well as provide for the cost of technical assistance at a level determined by the State Department of Education *and the State Librarian, respectively*. As a condition to receiving a grant, a school must implement a program that enlists pupil volunteers to provide technical support.

(b) The grant program established pursuant to this section shall establish preferences for the following:

(1) Schools, public access computer technology centers, and libraries with substantial local and private sector support.

(2) Schools, public access computer technology centers, and libraries located in areas with poor computer access, such as rural and low-income areas.

(c) Grantees shall hire staff and recruit volunteers with appropriate levels of computer knowledge and expertise.

(d) No grant awarded under the program shall exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

(e) For the purposes of this section, “public access computer technology center” means a nonprofit community-based center located in a low-income neighborhood that provides access to technology and the Internet and technology skills training to underserved populations, including, but not limited to, youth. The purpose of the public access computer technology center is to provide opportunities for the general public to become trained and knowledgeable in the use of

1 computers and to provide access to the Internet so that
2 the general public may become familiar with the use of
3 technology and the Internet and Internet resources.

4 SEC. 3. The sum of _____ (\$_____) is hereby
5 appropriated from the General Fund ~~to the State~~
6 ~~Department of Education~~ to be allocated according to
7 the following schedule:

8 (a) The sum of _____ dollars (\$_____) to the
9 *State Department of Education for the After School*
10 *Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Program*
11 established pursuant to Article 22.5 (commencing with
12 Section 8482) of Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Education
13 Code to encourage schools to keep their computer
14 facilities open and Internet access available by providing
15 grant funds to cover the additional costs incurred by a
16 school as well as provide for the cost of technical
17 assistance at a level determined by the State Department
18 of Education.

19 (b) The sum of _____ (\$_____) to *the State*
20 *Librarian* to encourage public libraries that have Internet
21 access to extend the hours and days during which access
22 is available to the public by providing grant funding to
23 cover additional costs incurred by the library as well as
24 provide for the cost of technical assistance at a level
25 determined by the State ~~Department of Education~~
26 *Librarian*.

27 (c) The sum of _____ dollars (\$_____) to *the*
28 *State Librarian* encourage public access computer
29 technology centers that have Internet access to extend
30 the hours and days that access is available to the public by
31 providing grant funding to cover the additional costs
32 incurred by the public access computer technology
33 center and the cost of technical assistance at a level
34 determined by the State ~~Department of Education~~
35 *Librarian*.

