

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 25, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 29, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 16, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2000

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**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1774**

**Introduced by Senator Bowen**  
*(Coauthor: Assembly Member Alquist)*

February 23, 2000

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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.

(1) 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~~ *Librarian* to establish a grant program to encourage ~~schools to keep their computer facilities open and available to their~~

~~pupils and their families. 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 require grant funds to cover the additional costs incurred by the schools, libraries, and public access computer technology centers as well as provide for, and to cover 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 prescribed 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.~~

(2) The bill would appropriate ~~an unspecified sum~~ \$1,343,000 from the General Fund, according to a specified schedule, ~~to fund the grant programs for creation of Internet access centers throughout the state, for operational support of the "Little Hoover" Commission, and for the purchase of products and services for blind, print-limited, and learning disabled pupils.~~

Vote: <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>. 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

1 themselves, avail themselves of economic opportunities,  
2 participate in electronic commerce, and access  
3 information.

4 (c) A cost-effective way of helping to bridge the digital  
5 divide is to provide ~~educational and training~~  
6 ~~opportunities to pupils as well as provide~~ general access  
7 to the public through the extended use of ~~schools,~~  
8 libraries; and other public access computer centers.

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

11 ~~10910.2. (a) The State Department of Education~~  
12 ~~shall establish a grant program to encourage schools to~~  
13 ~~keep their computer facilities open and available to their~~  
14 ~~pupils and their families, and the State Librarian shall~~

15 *10910.2. (a) The State Librarian shall* establish a  
16 grant program to encourage public libraries and public  
17 access computer technology centers that have Internet  
18 access to extend the hours and days during which access  
19 is available to the public. The grants shall cover the  
20 additional costs, excluding costs for the construction or  
21 lease of the facilities, incurred by a ~~school,~~ public access  
22 computer technology center; or library ~~as well as provide~~  
23 ~~for, and shall cover~~ the cost of technical assistance at a  
24 ~~level determined by the State Department of Education~~  
25 ~~and the State Librarian, respectively. As a condition to~~  
26 ~~receiving a grant, a school must implement a program~~  
27 ~~that enlists pupil volunteers to provide technical support.~~  
28 *level determined by the State Librarian.*

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

31 (1) ~~Schools, public~~ *Public* access computer technology  
32 centers, and libraries with substantial local and private  
33 sector support.

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

37 (c) Grantees shall hire staff and recruit volunteers  
38 with appropriate levels of computer knowledge and  
39 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 computers and to provide access to the Internet so that the general public may become familiar with the use of technology and the Internet and Internet resources.

SEC. 3. The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$\_\_\_\_\_) *one million three hundred forty-three thousand dollars (\$1,343,000)* is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to be allocated according to the following schedule:

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

~~(b) The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$\_\_\_\_\_) to the State Librarian to encourage public libraries that have Internet access to extend the hours and days during which access is available to the public by providing grant funding to cover additional costs incurred by the library as well as provide for the cost of technical assistance at a level determined by the State Librarian.~~

~~(c) The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_) to the State Librarian~~

~~(a) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the State Department of Education for the~~

1 *Clearing House for Specialized Media and Technology*  
2 *within the State Department of Education to purchase*  
3 *products and services for blind, print-limited, and*  
4 *learning disabled pupils.*

5 *(b) The sum of ninety-three thousand dollars*  
6 *(\$93,000) to the Milton Marks "Little Hoover"*  
7 *Commission on California State Government*  
8 *Organization and Economy for operational support.*

9 *(c) The sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the*  
10 *State Librarian to encourage public access computer*  
11 *technology centers that have Internet access to extend*  
12 *the hours and days that access is available to the public by*  
13 *providing grant funding to cover the additional costs*  
14 *incurred by the public access computer technology*  
15 *center and the cost of technical assistance at a level*  
16 *determined by the State Librarian.*

