

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: July 6, 2011
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: Superintendent of Public Instruction

BILL NUMBER: AB 339
AUTHOR: S. Bonilla

BILL SUMMARY: Instructional Materials: Social Content Reviews: Fees

This bill would require the State Board of Education (Board) to adopt regulations governing social content reviews of instructional materials conducted for a fee at the request of a publisher or manufacturer. The requirement to conduct these reviews sunset on January 1, 2011.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The bill would create minor, absorbable costs for the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop regulations. Further minor, absorbable costs would result from the SDE, the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission (Curriculum Commission), and the Board to complete a publisher-generated review of social content. These costs would be reimbursed by the publishers.

In addition, depending on the depth and breadth of any proposed revisions resulting from publisher-generated reviews, modifications or, more likely, additions to instructional material content could create millions of dollars in future Proposition 98 General Fund costs. These changes also would trigger additional activities and drive new costs to revise assessments, the state and federal accountability systems, and professional development programs.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- To the extent modifications and additions to content are adopted, the bill could create millions of dollars in Proposition 98 General Fund costs. Given that the state continues to have a structural budget deficit, new expenditure pressures would not be advisable.
The bill is unnecessary and duplicative. State law requires, and the Board follows, a framework revision process that includes substantial input from subject matter experts and public comment. Any suggested emphasis or changes to the framework would be best served through this process. Further, current law already requires that adopted instructional materials be consistent with content standards and frameworks.

The Board serves as the oversight body for the statewide K-12 content standards used for instructional materials, assessments, and accountability purposes. The Board also adopts textbooks for grades K-8 and regulations to implement legislation. The existing process to modify curriculum frameworks based on stable content standards provides for substantial input from subject matter experts, including the Curriculum Commission, which serves as an advisory body to the Board on curriculum and instructional materials. The Curriculum Commission develops and recommends curriculum frameworks that the Board may use as blueprints for implementing the content standards in instructional materials, teacher training programs, and exams. The Budget Act of 2009 and Chapter 2 of the Statutes of 2009 of the Fourth Extraordinary Session suspended the adoption of frameworks and instructional materials by the Board until 2013-14. The Budget

Analyst/Principal Date Program Budget Manager Date
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Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved
Position Disapproved

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Act of 2011 suspended curriculum review and instructional materials adoptions by the Board for an additional two fiscal years.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	
6110/Dept of Educ	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----				0001
6110/Dept of Educ	LA	Yes	-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----				0001