

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

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

BILL NUMBER: AB 790
AUTHOR: W. Furutani
RELATED BILLS: AB 1304 (Block, 2011); SB 500 (Hancock, 2011)

BILL SUMMARY: Career Technical Education: Linked Learning Program

This bill would: (1) establish the Linked Learning Pilot Program (Pilot) beginning with the 2012-13 school year for the purpose of implementing district-wide linked learning programs that guide students through course sequences that lead to high school graduation, postsecondary education, or employment; (2) limit the Pilot to 20 applicant school districts approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent); (3) require participating school districts to implement linked learning programs within existing resources; (4) require participating school districts to promote concurrent enrollment and dual credit with community colleges and universities; and (5) require the Superintendent to allocate any funds made available for the Pilot on a competitive basis. For the existing statute on multiple pathways, the bill would replace the term "multiple pathway" with the term "linked learning program."

The bill would also require the Superintendent to provide a report to the Legislature and the Governor by September 30, 2016 that includes the costs and merits of the pilot program, along with student outcome data. The bill also states Legislative findings and declarations. The Pilot would be inoperative on July 1, 2017, and would be repealed as of January 1, 2018.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Based on information from the State Department of Education (SDE), the bill could create cost pressures between \$2 million and \$7 million Proposition 98 General Fund for the first year if nonstate or federal funding does not become available. The estimate assumes a cost of \$1,300 per student and ranges from 80 students in a small school to 300 participants in a large high school with 20 Pilot programs.

The bill would also generate SDE costs of \$71,000 for 0.5 education program consultant position and 0.25 associate governmental program analyst position to support the Pilot. According to the SDE, these costs can be funded within existing resources.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- The bill is unnecessary because there is no material difference between the Pilot and the existing multiple pathways program that utilizes a similar approach and programs. Furthermore, nothing precludes school districts from establishing a linked learning pilot program since ten districts have already done so.
The bill could generate Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures in the tens of millions of dollars over the five-year pilot period to the extent that additional nonstate resources do not become available. Additionally, the Pilot could create cost pressures in the hundreds of millions of Proposition 98 General Fund to the extent that the Pilot expands linked learning throughout the

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Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved
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state. Any efforts to expand concurrent enrollment with community colleges would also generate cost pressures. Given the current budget constraints, it would not be prudent fiscal policy to create or expand programs that could generate costs or cost pressures.

Existing law establishes the multiple pathway program as an approach that integrates academic and technical study that is organized around a broad theme, interest area, or industry section. The program ensures that pupils have curriculum choices that prepare them for employment, postsecondary education, and formal employment training. Existing state funded programs that utilize this approach include: California Partnership Academies (CPAs), Regional Occupational Centers and Programs, various career technical education programs, and Specialized Secondary Programs. These programs are designed to motivate students to stay in school through means that offer more than traditional, classroom academic instruction.

The Budget Act of 2011 provides approximately \$431 million for CPAs, Green Partnership Academies, Clean Technology Partnership Academies, Apprentice Programs, Agricultural Vocational Education, Specialized Secondary Programs, and Regional Occupational Programs and Centers. Additionally, the Quality Education Improvement Act provides \$48 million, of which over \$16 million is for CPAs, Career Advancement Academies, and K-12 Health Pathways programs. The Carl D. Perkins program provides approximately \$116 million federal funds for vocational education.

The Multiple Pathways to Student Success report submitted by the SDE, as required by Chapter 681, Statutes of 2008 (AB 2648), provided recommendations to improve and expand multiple pathways programs. According to the author's office, this bill is a direct response to the recommendations and findings within the report.

Related Bill

AB 1304 (Block, 2011) would authorize the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to convene a workgroup to develop program standards for the issuance of a "recognition of study in linked learning." Further, the bill would encourage the California State Universities and other teacher preparation programs to establish goals for increasing the number of teachers prepared for linked learning programs.

SB 500 (Hancock, 2011) would request the SDE to provide an analysis and recommendations on CPA program components including any implications of the SDE's administration of the various types of CPAs; and would authorize a school district to include grade 9 students in the CPA program, specify requirements for districts that include grade 9 students, and prohibit districts from receiving any funding for inclusion of grade 9 students. The bill would also require that, if funds are appropriated for CPAs in the annual budget act or any other measure, the Superintendent of Public Instruction allocate funds to partnership academies that received specified funding, and that this funding be awarded on a competitive basis in accordance with the provisions of law that govern partnership academies.

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