

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

March 17, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental
Relations Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller *Gerry F. Miller*
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 14-0002-S19
Assignment No. 14-03-0154

SUBJECT: AB 1750 (Alejo) Ethnic Studies in Public Schools

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution to include in the City's 2013-2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1750 (Alejo), which would require the Instructional Quality Commission to establish a task force to identify and report on appropriate curricula for establishing and implementing ethnic studies in public high schools statewide.

SUMMARY

On February 21, 2014, the Resolution (Cedillo-Huizar) was introduced stating the following:

- Existing law requires a school district, as part of its adopted course of study for grades 7 through 12, to offer courses in specified areas of study, including social science;
- AB 1750 (Alejo) would require the commission to identify model programs, standards, and curricula relating to ethnic studies at the high school level;
- AB 1750 would require the commission, on or before January 1, 2016, to prepare and submit a report that identifies the best practices and standards for establishing and implementing ethnic studies in public high schools, to the Governor and the Legislature, and to make the report available on the State Department of Education's Internet Web site; and
- AB 1750 would also provide \$125,000 to the State Department of Education for purposes of funding the report.

BACKGROUND

California has one of the largest and most diverse student populations in the country. In fact, traditional ethnic minorities account for over 71 percent of the student population, with Latinos alone accounting for over 52 percent.

AB 1750 states that developing ethnic studies programs in public high schools is an integral part of cultivating a classroom environment that is accepting of diverse cultures. In order to do so properly, this bill requires the Instructional Quality Commission to determine the most effective way to implement ethnic studies courses by consulting with experts on ethnic studies including educators, researchers, community-based organizations and professional associations. The commission must submit their findings in a report by 2016. The report must accomplish the following:

- Review the most current research on ethnic studies for secondary education;
- Review and evaluate existing standards, curricula, programs, and training regarding ethnic studies for secondary education;

- Identify the best practices and standards for establishing and implementing ethnic studies in public high schools;
- Assess the adequacy of current ethnic studies courses in California public high schools; and,
- Make recommendations for establishing ethnic studies or California Cultures courses as a part of the public high school curriculum.

BILL STATUS

2/27/14 Referred to Committee on Education.

2/14/14 Introduced. Read first time.



Darrell Powell
Analyst

GFM:MF:PS
Attachment: Resolution