

TRANSMITTAL

To: **THE COUNCIL**

Date: **07/19/19**

From: **THE MAYOR**

TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eric Garcetti', written in a cursive style.

(Ana Guerrero) for

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor

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ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF
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ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
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ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Lifesaving

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

May 30, 2019

The Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Ms. Mandy Morales, Office of the Mayor

**RE: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1586 (KALRA) – PROHIBITION
OF PUPILS FROM PERFORMING ANIMAL DISSECTIONS**

Recommendation for Council Action, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

SUPPORT State Assembly Bill No. 1586 (Kalra), also known as the Replacing Animals in Science Education (RAISE) Act.

At its meeting on April 9, 2019, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners considered and approved a recommendation of support for State Assembly Bill No. 1586 (Kalra). Additional information concerning the Board's recommendation can be found in the attached approved board report.

If you have any questions with regards to the recommendation, please contact LaTonya Dean, Commission Executive Assistant at (213) 482-9597 or via e-mail at LaTonya.Dean@lacity.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda F. Barnette

Brenda F. Barnette
General Manager

Attachment: April 9, 2019 Board Report – Assembly Bill No. 1586 (Kalra)

cc: Bryan Oh, Office of the City Administrative Officer

Attachments

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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2019

PREPARED BY: Brenda Barnette

REPORT DATE: April 1, 2019

TITLE: General Manager

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1586 (KALRA) –
PROHIBITION OF PUPILS FROM PERFORMING ANIMAL DISSECTIONS**

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1. **SUPPORT** State Assembly Bill No. 1586 (Kalra), also known as the Replacing Animals in Science Education (RAISE) Act; and
2. **AUTHORIZE** staff to transmit this recommendation to the Mayor and City Council for consideration of adoption in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor.

BACKGROUND:

In February 2019, Assemblymember Ash Kalra introduced Assembly Bill (AB 1586) which would amend sections of the Education Code relating to pupil instruction and animal dissection.

SUMMARY:

Most schools that have a curriculum that includes dissection, typically uses frogs and worms for their assignments, however, recent surveys have shown that fetal pigs, cats, sharks, sheep and other animals may also be used in dissections. Current law allows students from kindergarten through the twelfth grade with a moral objection to dissecting animals for educational purposes, an option to refrain from doing so and instead be given an option to complete an alternative assignment in order to obtain the knowledge or information from the course.

AB 1586 would prohibit any pupil (kindergarten through twelfth grade) at all private and public schools from performing dissections, and would replace animal dissection activities with modern and humane teaching methods more in line with industry standards and best practices such as the use of three-dimensional models, films and virtual simulations.

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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1586 (KALRA) –
PROHIBITION OF PUPILS FROM PERFORMING ANIMAL DISSECTIONS

FISCAL IMPACT:

The support of AB 1586 does not impact the General Fund.

Approved:

Brenda Barnette
Brenda Barnette, General Manager

Attachment: AB 1586

BOARD ACTION:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Passed	Disapproved	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passed with noted modifications	Continued	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	New Date	<input type="checkbox"/>

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1586

Introduced by Assembly Member Kalra

February 22, 2019

An act to amend Sections 32255, 32255.1, and 32255.5 of, and to amend the heading of Chapter 2.3 (commencing with Section 32255) of Part 19 of Division 1 of Title 1 of, the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1586, as introduced, Kalra. Pupil instruction: animal dissection.

Existing law authorizes a pupil with a moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying an animal to refrain from participation in an educational project that involves the harmful or destructive use of animals. Existing law authorizes a pupil who chooses to refrain, with the approval of the teacher, to complete an alternative education project in order to obtain the knowledge, information, or experience required by the course of study in question.

This bill would prohibit a pupil in any California private or public school in kindergarten and grades 1 through 12, from performing dissection. The bill would define dissection as the viewing of the, or act of, dismembering or otherwise destructive use of an invertebrate or vertebrate animal, as specified, in the study of biological sciences, excluding fixed histological samples of any species. The bill would also add items that may be included as an alternative education project for the purpose of demonstrating knowledge if a pupil has a moral objection to participating in an education project involving the harmful or destructive use of animals.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 2.3 (commencing with
2 Section 32255) of Part 19 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education
3 Code is amended to read:

4

5 CHAPTER 2.3. MODERNIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL TEACHING
6 METHODS AND PUPILS' RIGHTS TO REFRAIN FROM THE HARMFUL
7 OR DESTRUCTIVE USE OF ANIMALS

8

9 SEC. 2. Section 32255 of the Education Code is amended to
10 read:

11 32255. As used in this chapter;

12 (a) "Animal" means any living organism of the kingdom
13 animalia, beings that typically differ from plants in capacity for
14 spontaneous movement and rapid motor response to stimulation
15 by a usually greater mobility with some degree of voluntary
16 locomotor ability and by greater irritability commonly mediated
17 through a more or less centralized nervous system, beings that are
18 characterized by a requirement for complex organic nutrients
19 including proteins or their constituents that are usually digested
20 in an internal cavity before assimilation into the body proper, and
21 beings that are distinguished from typical plants by lack of
22 chlorophyll, by an inability to perform photosynthesis, by cells
23 that lack cellulose walls, and by the frequent presence of discrete
24 complex sense organs.

25 (b) "Alternative education project" includes, but is not limited
26 to, the use of video recordings, *three-dimensional* models, films,
27 books, *interactive simulation software* and computers, ~~which and~~
28 *assessments of knowledge that* would provide an alternate avenue
29 for obtaining the knowledge, information, or experience required
30 by the course of study in question. "Alternative education project"
31 also includes "alternative test."

32 (c) "Pupil" means a person under 18 years of age who is
33 matriculated in a course of instruction in an educational institution
34 within the scope of Section 32255.5. For the purpose of asserting
35 the pupil's rights and receiving any notice or response pursuant to

1 this chapter, “pupil” also includes the parents of the matriculated
2 minor.

3 (d) “Dissection” means the viewing of the, or act of,
4 dismembering or otherwise destructive use of an invertebrate or
5 vertebrae animal, in part or in whole, preserved or freshly killed,
6 in the study of biological sciences. Animal dissection does not
7 include fixed histological samples of any species, including, but
8 not limited to, plain or stained microscope slides, owl pellets,
9 human autopsy viewing, and plastinated human organs.

10 SEC. 3. Section 32255.1 of the Education Code is amended to
11 read:

12 ~~32255.1. (a)~~

13 32255.1. (a) A pupil shall not perform dissection in a
14 California public or private school.

15 (b) Except as otherwise provided in Section 32255.6, any pupil
16 with a moral objection to ~~dissecting or otherwise~~ harming or
17 destroying animals, or any parts thereof, shall notify ~~his or her~~ the
18 pupil’s teacher regarding this objection, upon notification by the
19 school of ~~his or her~~ the pupil’s rights pursuant to Section 32255.4.

20 ~~(b)~~

21 (c) If the pupil chooses to refrain from participation in an
22 education project involving the harmful or destructive use of
23 animals, and if the teacher believes that an adequate alternative
24 education project is possible, the teacher may work with the pupil
25 to develop and agree upon an ~~alternate~~ alternative education project
26 for the purpose of providing the pupil an alternate avenue for
27 obtaining the knowledge, information, or experience required by
28 the course of study in question.

29 ~~(c)~~

30 (d) The alternative education project shall require a comparable
31 time and effort investment by the pupil. It shall not, as a means of
32 penalizing the pupil, be more arduous than the original education
33 project.

34 ~~(d)~~

35 (e) The pupil shall not be discriminated against based upon ~~his~~
36 ~~or her~~ the pupil’s decision to exercise ~~his or her~~ the pupil’s rights
37 pursuant to this chapter.

38 ~~(e)~~

39 (f) Pupils choosing an alternative educational project shall pass
40 all examinations of the respective course of study in order to

1 receive credit for that course of study. However, if tests require
2 the harmful or destructive use of animals, a pupil may, similarly,
3 seek alternative tests pursuant to this chapter.

4 (f)

5 (g) A pupil's objection to participating in an educational project
6 pursuant to this section shall be substantiated by a note from ~~his~~
7 ~~or her~~ *the pupil's* parent or guardian.

8 SEC. 4. Section 32255.5 of the Education Code is amended to
9 read:

10 32255.5. Notwithstanding any ~~provision of~~ law to the contrary,
11 this chapter applies to all levels of instruction in all public *and*
12 *private* schools operating programs ~~from in~~ kindergarten ~~through~~
13 *and* grades 1 to 12, inclusive.