
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair
2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No: SB 652
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Version: April 6, 2015
Urgency: No
Consultant: Lynn Lorber
Hearing Date: April 29, 2015
Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Instructional materials: revised curriculum frameworks: science

SUMMARY

This bill delays by one year the date by which the State Board of Education is required to consider the adoption of a revised framework for science.

BACKGROUND

Academic content standards define the knowledge, concepts, and skills that students should acquire at each grade level. Curricular frameworks are the blueprint for implementing the standards, and include criteria by which instructional materials are evaluated.

A schedule once existed for the review and update of frameworks and instructional materials in many subject areas, but those processes were suspended due to budget constraints. The State Board of Education (SBE) is specifically prohibited from adopting instructional materials and the Instructional Quality Commission (formerly the Curriculum Commission) is prohibited from reviewing or updating curricular frameworks until the 2015-16 school year. The Curriculum Commission was in the process of updating the frameworks in health and history-social science when the prohibition was imposed; all work halted on July 28, 2009. (Education Code § 60200.7) Statutes have since been amended to require or authorize frameworks to be updated in certain subjects:

1. Requires the SBE to consider, by January 31, 2016, the adoption of a revised framework for science based on the Next Generation Science Standards that were adopted by the SBE on September 4, 2013. (EC § 60200.9)
2. Requires the SBE to adopt a revised framework in English language arts that is aligned to the common core standards by July 30, 2014, and a framework for mathematics that is aligned to the common core standards by November 30, 2013. (EC § 60207)
3. Requires the SBE to ensure that the revised framework in English language arts include the English language development standards. (EC § 60207)
4. Authorizes the SBE to consider the adoption of a revised framework in history-social science. (EC § 60200.8)

ANALYSIS

This bill delays by one year the date by which the State Board of Education is required to consider the adoption of a revised framework for science. Specifically, this bill:

1. Delays by one year, from January 31, 2016 to January 31, 2017, the date by which the State Board of Education (SBE) is required to consider the adoption of a revised framework for science that is based on the Next Generation Science Standards that were adopted by the SBE on September 4, 2013.
2. Updates the cross-reference to the provision that required the SBE to adopt the Next Generation Science Standards. That section of the Education Code has since been repealed, and therefore is properly referenced as the former Section 60605.85, as that section read on June 30, 2014.

STAFF COMMENTS

1. ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “The revision of the science framework is underway, but development of the draft has required more time than originally projected. The Science Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee (committee) began its work in September 2014, followed by meetings in October and November. Meetings originally scheduled for December 2014 and February 2015 were rescheduled. As the committee got deeper into the work of developing what is essentially a brand-new framework, based on entirely new content standards, it became clear that there would be difficulties in meeting the original timeline approved by the SBE. The contracted writers for the project had to complete extensive revisions of early drafts based on the guidance of the committee resulting from its public meetings. This resulted in significant improvements to the draft document, but meant that the work could not be completed according to the original timeline.”
2. ***Status of the revised framework in science.*** According to the California Department of Education’s website, the Science Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee is currently drafting the revised science framework, and is expected to present the draft to the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) in September 2015. The IQC then must make the draft available for field review for 60 days, and make and subsequent edits as deemed appropriate. The California Department of Education (CDE) anticipates full development of the revised framework and adoption by the SBE by January 2017. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/cf/index.asp>
3. ***Capacity.*** The California Department of Education (CDE), Instructional Quality Commission, or State Board of Education (SBE) are currently tasked, by statute, with the following activities related to standards and frameworks, in addition to revision of the science framework:
 - A. The SBE is authorized to consider the adoption of a revised framework in history-social science, which was suspended in July 2009. The 2014-15 Budget Act appropriated funds for the revision of the history-social science framework to resume. According to the CDE’s website, the Instructional

Quality Commission approved the draft revised framework for field review on September 18, 2014. The SBE is expected to adopt the revised framework in May 2015. The California Department of Education has encountered difficulty in finalizing this framework and has requested funding in the 2015-16 Budget Act for an independent review of their work.

- B. The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) is required to recommend English language development standards that are aligned with the common core standards in mathematics and science for adoption by the State Board of Education (SBE). Adoption of these standards is expected in or after July 2015.
 - C. The SPI is required to recommend to the SBE modifications to the English language development standards that are aligned with the common core standards in mathematics and the Next Generation Science Standards. Current law requires the SPI to submit recommendations to the SBE by January 2015, and requires the SBE to adopt updated standards by August 1, 2015. However, according to the California Department of Education's website, the panel of experts has just recently been convened, and it is anticipated that the SPI will provide recommendations to the SBE in July 2015; it is unclear if adoption by the SBE is expected later than the statutory deadline of August 1, 2015. There is no statutory authority or requirement for the adoption of a revised English language development framework for mathematics or science. (EC § 60811.4)
 - D. Requires the Instructional Quality Commission to consider, by July 31, 2019, developing and recommending the adoption of standards in computer science.
4. ***Fiscal impact.*** Funds for the revision of the science framework were appropriated in the 2014-15 Budget Act. It is not anticipated that this bill will result in costs to the State.
5. ***Related and prior legislation (specific to frameworks).***

RELATED LEGISLATION

SB 695 (De Leon, 2015) requires school districts that require completion of a course in health education as a condition of high school graduation to include instruction in sexual assault and violence, and requires the Instructional Quality Commission, during the next revision of the Health framework, to consider including a distinct category for grades 9-12 on sexual harassment and violence. SB 695 is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 4.

AB 101 (Alejo, 2015) requires the SPI to oversee the development of, and requires the SBE to adopt, a model curriculum framework and other support systems to ensure quality courses in ethnic studies, requires the model curriculum framework to meet the A-G requirements, and requires each school district serving any of grades 7 to 12 to offer a course of study in ethnic studies

based on the model curriculum framework. AB 101 is pending on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

AB 146 (Cristina Garcia, 2015) requires the State Board of Education, when revising and adopting the history-social science framework after January 1, 2016, to consider including instruction on the unconstitutional deportation to Mexico during the Great Depression of citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States. AB 146 is pending on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

SUPPORT

California Science Teachers Association
State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson

OPPOSITION

None received.

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