

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 514

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonta

February 20, 2013

An act to amend Section 234.5 of the Education Code, relating to school safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 514, as amended, Bonta. ~~School safety; the~~ *The Safe Schools for Safe Learning Act of 2013.*

Existing law establishes the Safe Place to Learn Act and, among other things, requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to post on his or her Internet Web site a list of statewide resources that provide support to youth who have been subjected to school-based discrimination, harassment, or bullying, and their families.

This bill, the Safe Schools for Safe Learning Act of 2013, would require the Superintendent to post on the Superintendent's Internet Web site a list of statewide resources for youth who have been affected by gangs, gun violence, and psychological trauma. The bill would express various findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to school safety.

~~Existing law establishes various laws relating to school safety and violence prevention, and, among other things, requires each school district and county office of education to develop a comprehensive school safety plan for schools operating kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive.~~

~~This bill would express the Legislature's intent to enact legislation that would be known as the Safe Schools for Safe Learning Act of 2013,~~

which would give pupils from the 18th Assembly District a strong voice in developing new strategies for school safety. The bill would also express various findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to school safety.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. *This act shall be known as the Safe Schools for*
2 *Safe Learning Act of 2013.*

3 ~~SECTION 1.~~

4 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

5 (a) Child safety should be a priority in our state, and we, as the
6 state Legislature, should ensure that our children are kept safe from
7 any form of violence, especially while children are in school.

8 (b) Our children have the talent and capacity for greatness, if
9 given the opportunity to thrive and grow in a healthy environment.

10 (c) Unfortunately, violence has become a fact of life for many
11 pupils in the 18th Assembly District. For example, Oakland
12 suffered from 131 homicides in 2012. Many children suffer
13 complications from growing up in a violent environment, including
14 depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, which makes it more
15 difficult to become an engaged and productive pupil at school.

16 (d) Assembly Member Bonta has asked pupils to submit their
17 responses to the question, “What would make you feel safer at
18 school?” The Safe Schools for Safe Learning Act of 2013 will be
19 based on the winning response to that question.

20 (e) We need to create safe and supportive school environments
21 where each child is able to thrive. A school is not just a place for
22 perfunctory instruction. It is also the place where a child learns
23 about humanity, family, and community, free from violence and
24 fear.

25 ~~SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation~~
26 ~~that would be known as the Safe Schools for Safe Learning Act~~
27 ~~of 2013, which would give pupils from the 18th Assembly District~~
28 ~~a strong voice in developing new strategies for school safety.~~

29 SEC. 3. *Section 234.5 of the Education Code is amended to*
30 *read:*

1 234.5. The Superintendent shall post, and annually update, on
2 his or her Internet Web site and provide to each school district a
3 list of statewide resources, including community-based
4 organizations, that provide support to youth who have been
5 subjected to school-based discrimination, harassment, intimidation,
6 or bullying, and their families. *The Superintendent's Internet Web*
7 *site shall also include a list of statewide resources for youth who*
8 *have been affected by gangs, gun violence, and psychological*
9 *trauma.*

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