

SB 673 (Portantino)

Education: Adult Education: Reporting

PROBLEM

As of 2016, 2 million Californians have an education of 7th grade or less, 4 million speak limited English and 5 million do not have a high school diploma. Following the Great recession, school districts were given spending flexibility, which resulted in adult education receiving less funding. Since the recession, adult education has lagged behind in recovery. Without access to education, adult learners have limited job opportunities. Adult education also provides ESL help and other programs for immigrants.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, AB 104 and the 2015-2016 Budget Act created the Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG), which provided \$500 million in ongoing Proposition 98 funding for the grant. This grant was created to provide additional funding for the reconstruction of adult education services. From the restructuring, adult education providers formed regional consortia to improve coordination and better serve the needs of adult learners within each region of the State. There are 71 regional consortia. Membership is limited to only school and community college districts, county offices of education (COEs), and joint powers agencies (JPAs). Only formal members may receive direct funding from the AEBG, but the consortia may pass funding from the AEBG to other adult education providers if called for in the regional plan.

State law allows for 7 uses for consortia to use the AEBG money on.

- Elementary and secondary reading, writing, and mathematics (basic skills).

- English as a second language and other programs for immigrants.
- Workforce preparation for adults (including senior citizens) entering or re-entering the workforce.
- Short-term career technical education with high employment potential.
- Pre-apprenticeship training activities coordinated with approved apprenticeship programs.
- Programs for adults with disabilities.
- Programs designed to develop knowledge and skills that enable adults (including senior citizens) to help children to succeed in school.

SUMMARY

SB 673 will create a task force to ensure proper funding of adult education programs through reviewing the reporting requirements under the Adult Education block grant program. The task force will be convened by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and the Superintendent of Public Instruction and shall include representatives from the appropriate fiscal subcommittees and policy committees of the Legislature, the Department of Finance, the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the California Department of Education, the Statewide Director of Immigrant Integration, and adult education providers, and shall issue its findings and recommendations to the Department of Fi-

nance and, pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code, the Legislature no later than January 1, 2023

EXISTING LAW

Existing law creates the Adult Education Block Grant Program under the administration of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program requires the chancellor and the Superintendent, with the advice of the executive director of the State Board of Education, to divide the state into adult education regions and approve one adult education consortium in each adult education region, as specified.

Existing law requires the chancellor and the Superintendent to provide to the Director of Finance, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature preliminary reports on or before October 30 following each fiscal year for which funds are appropriated for the program and final reports on or before February 1 of the following year about the use of specified funds and outcomes for adults statewide and in each adult education region.

SUPPORT

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