





*Bill Analysis*  
**California Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

**Bill Number:** Assembly Bill 642

**Author:** Assembly Member Mullin

**Sponsor:** California Federation of Teachers

**Subject of Bill:** California K-12 Student Academic Content Standards -- Periodic Review

**Date Introduced:** February 19, 2003  
**Date Amended:** May 14, 2003

**Status in Leg. Process:** Assembly Appropriations  
(Hearing Scheduled for May 28, 2003)

**Recommended Position:** Approve if Amended

**Date of Analysis:** May 27, 2003

**Analyst:** Marilyn Errett and Linda Bond

**Summary of Current Law**

Section 60605 (a) (1) (A) of the California Education Code requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide Academic Content Standards for students in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, and mathematics and in the core curriculum areas of history/social science and science by November 1, 1998. Section 60605.1 of the California Education code requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide Academic Content Standards for students in visual and performing arts by June 1, 2001. Section 60605.2 of the California Education Code requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide Academic Content Standards for students in physical education by December 1, 2004.

Section 44259 (b) (5) of the California Education Code requires the Commission to align subject matter standards and subject matter examination specifications for teachers with California's Academic Content Standards for students approved by the State Board of Education.

## **Summary of Current Activity by the Commission**

In May 2001, the Commission approved revised subject matter requirements for Multiple Subject (Liberal Studies), English, Mathematics, Science Social and Science to align with the Academic Content Standards for students adopted by the State Board of Education. Passing standards for the new examinations in these subjects were approved by the Commission at its April 2003 meeting. The Commission continues to review subject matter requirements for subject matter programs and to re-validate examinations on a regularly scheduled bases resulting in a review of each subject area every five to six years.

The Commission is currently working on a content review of the following subject matter areas and plans to implement examinations by fall of 2004:

Art

Languages Other Than English: French, German, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese

Music

Physical Education

(The Commission will also review content for Educational Technology required for Multiple Subject and Single Subject Preliminary Credentials.)

Beginning in late 2004, the Commission will begin content reviews of the following subject matter areas and plans to implement examinations by late 2005.

Agriculture

Business

Health Science

Home Economics

Industrial and Technology Education

## **Analysis of Bill Provisions**

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, commencing in 2005, to conduct a periodic review of the Academic Content Standards for students, and as part of that review, to hold regional public hearings. The bill would require the superintendent to adopt any changes in the content standards deemed necessary or desirable and any conforming changes to the statewide performance standards.

In its current form, AB 642 does not acknowledge the Education Code section requiring the Commission to align subject matter requirements for teachers with California's Academic Content Standards for students nor does it allow the Commission to align its subject matter requirements for teachers as a part of its regularly scheduled review and validation process.

## **Analysis of Fiscal Impact of Bill**

AB 642, as currently written, could result in the Commission's action to re-align its subject matter program standards and examination specifications outside of the regularly scheduled sequence. The cost to the Commission for the additional activities would be \$134,000 to \$150,000 per subject.

## Analysis of Relevant Legislative Policies by the Commission

The following Legislative policy applies to this measure:

1. The Commission supports legislation which proposes to maintain or establish high standards for the preparation of public school teachers and other educators in California, and opposes legislation that would lower standards for teachers and other educators.
5. The Commission supports legislation which strengthens or reaffirms initiatives and reforms which it previously has adopted, and opposes legislation which would undermine initiatives or reforms which it previously has adopted.

## Organizational Positions on the Bill

### Support

California Federation of Teachers  
California Association of Student Councils

### Opposition

None known at this time.

## Suggested Amendments

Staff recommends that AB 642 be amended to ensure that the Commission is allowed to follow its regularly scheduled timeframe for reviewing its subject matter requirements for teachers and aligning these requirements with the Academic Content Standards for students. The following language is recommended:

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in revising subject matter standards and examinations for teachers to be aligned with the state content and performance standards for pupils pursuant to subdivision (b) (5) of Section 44259, shall do so within its regularly scheduled subject matter content and examination validation timeframe.

## Reason for Suggested Position

Education Code Section 44259 (b) (5) requires that the Commission ensure that the subject matter standards and exams are aligned with Academic Content Standards for students. The law does not provide the Commission a cycle for revisions in response to changes in the Academic Content Standards for students.

The suggested amendment allows the Commission to keep within contractual agreements with testing companies and to stay within its planned budget.

Staff has discussed this issue with Assembly Member Mullin's consultant responsible for AB 642. The consultant has been very responsive to suggestions for resolving an unintended consequence of the measure. For the above reasons staff recommends a position of **Approve if Amended** on AB 642.

*Bill Analysis*  
**California Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

**Bill Number:** Assembly Bill 907

**Author:** Assembly Member Pavley

**Sponsor:** Assembly Member Pavley

**Subject of Bill:** Additional Environmental Education Content in the California K-12 Student Academic Content Standards

**Date Introduced:** February 20, 2003  
**Date Amended:** April 21, 2003

**Status in Leg. Process:** Assembly Appropriations Committee  
(Hearing Scheduled for May 28, 2003)

**Recommended Position:** Seek Amendments

**Date of Analysis:** May 27, 2003

**Analyst:** Marilyn Errett and Linda Bond

**Summary of Current Law**

Section 60605 (a) (1) (A) of the California Education Code requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide Academic Content Standards for students in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, and mathematics and in the core curriculum areas of history/social science and science. Section 44259 (b) (5) of the California Education Code requires the Commission to align subject matter standards and subject matter examination specifications for teachers with California's Academic Content Standards for students approved by the State Board of Education.

**Summary of Current Activity by the Commission**

In May 2001, the Commission approved revised subject matter requirements for Multiple Subject (Liberal Studies), English, Mathematics, Science Social and Science to align with the Academic Content Standards for students adopted by the State Board of Education. Passing standards for the new examinations in these subjects were approved by the Commission at its April 2003 meeting. The Commission continues to review subject matter requirements for subject matter programs and to re-validate examinations on a regularly scheduled bases resulting in a review of each subject area every five to six years.

## **Analysis of Bill Provisions**

AB 907 would require the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to revise the history/social science and science Academic Content Standards for students to incorporate additional environmental education content. Any revisions to the history/social science and science frameworks and to respective curriculum adoption criteria would occur only within the timeframes and procedures set forth in the State Department of Education's schedule for curriculum framework development and adoption of instructional resources.

In its current form, AB 907 does not acknowledge the Education Code section requiring the Commission to align subject matter requirements for teachers with California's Academic Content Standards for students. As a result, the Commission could be required to conduct alignment activities outside of the regularly scheduled sequence for this purpose.

## **Analysis of Fiscal Impact of Bill**

AB 907, as currently written, could result in the Commission's action to re-align its subject matter program standards and examination specifications in multiple subjects, science and social science outside of the regularly scheduled sequence. The cost to the Commission for the additional activities would be \$402,000 to \$450,000.

## **Analysis of Relevant Legislative Policies by the Commission**

The following Legislative policy applies to this measure:

- 1. The Commission supports legislation which proposes to maintain or establish high standards for the preparation of public school teachers and other educators in California, and opposes legislation that would lower standards for teachers and other educators.**
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- 5. The Commission supports legislation which strengthens or reaffirms initiatives and reforms which it previously has adopted, and opposes legislation which would undermine initiatives or reforms which it previously has adopted.**

## **Organizational Positions on the Bill**

### **Support**

Heal the Bay

Sea Grant Program, University of Southern California

Santa Monica City Council and Mayor

San Fernando Audubon Society

Windows on Our Waters

Ocean Discovery Center

Californians Against Waste

City of Hermosa Beach

City of Los Angeles' Board of Public Works

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California

Butte Environmental Council

Jeffer, Mangels, Butler & Marmaro LLP

Valhalla Motion Pictures  
Project Wild, the California Department of Fish and Game  
TBWA Worldwide  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Pritzker Group  
Ballona Wetlands Foundation  
National Geographic  
Rob Reiner  
Planning and Conservation League

**Opposition**

California Federation of Teachers

**Suggested Amendments**

Staff recommends that AB 907 be amended to ensure that the Commission is allowed to follow its regularly scheduled timeframe for reviewing its subject matter requirements for teachers and aligning these requirements with the Academic Content Standards for students. The following language is recommended:

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in revising subject matter standards and examinations for teachers to be aligned with the state content and performance standards for pupils pursuant to subdivision (b) (5) of Section 44259, shall do so within its regularly scheduled subject matter content and examination validation timeframe.

**Reason for Suggested Position**

While AB 907 allows the Department of Education to make changes to frameworks and curriculum according to its predetermined cycle, it does not currently provide the same latitude to the Commission for any necessary changes to the subject matter requirements for teachers. Education Code Section 44259 (b) (5) requires that the Commission ensure that the subject matter standards and exams are aligned with Academic Content Standards for students. The law does not provide the Commission a cycle for revisions in response to changes in the Academic Content Standards for students.

If AB 907 is passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, the Commission could be required to make changes to the subject matter requirements for teachers for the multiple subject, science, and social science subject matter program standards and examination specifications after the State Board of Education adopts the revised content standards.

Staff has discussed this issue with Assembly Member Pavley's consultant responsible for AB 907. The consultant has been very responsive to suggestions for resolving an unintended consequence of the measure. For the above reasons staff recommends a position of **Seek Amendments** on AB 907.

*Bill Analysis*  
**California Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 5</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Senator Karnette</b>
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Senator Karnette</b>
<b>Subject of Bill:</b>	<b>California K-12 Student Academic Content Standards for Languages Other Than English</b>
<b>Date Introduced:</b>	<b>December 2, 2002</b>
<b>Date Amended:</b>	<b>April 24, 2003</b>
<b>Status in Leg. Process:</b>	<b>Senate Floor</b>
<b>Recommended Position:</b>	<b>Approve if Amended</b>
<b>Date of Analysis:</b>	<b>May 27, 2003</b>
<b>Analyst:</b>	<b>Marilyn Errett and Linda Bond</b>

**Summary of Current Law**

Section 60605 (a) (1) (A) of the California Education Code requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide Academic Content Standards for students in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, and mathematics and in the core curriculum areas of history/social science and science by November 1, 1998. Section 60605.1 of the California Education code requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide Academic Content Standards for students in visual and performing arts by June 1, 2001. Section 60605.2 of the California Education Code requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide Academic Content Standards for students in physical education by December 1, 2004.

Section 44259 (b) (5) of the California Education Code requires the Commission to align subject matter standards and subject matter examination specifications for teachers with California's Academic Content Standards for students approved by the State Board of Education.

**Summary of Current Activity by the Commission**

In May 2001, the Commission approved revised subject matter requirements for Multiple Subject (Liberal Studies), English, Mathematics, Science Social and Science to align with the Academic Content Standards for students adopted by the State Board of Education. Passing standards for the new examinations in these subjects were approved by the Commission at its April 2003 meeting. The Commission continues to review subject matter requirements for subject matter programs and to re-validate

examinations on a regularly scheduled bases resulting in a review of each subject area every five to six years.

The Commission is currently working on a content review of the following subject matter areas and plans to implement examinations by fall of 2004:

Art

Languages Other Than English: French, German, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese

Music

Physical Education

(The Commission will also review content for Educational Technology required for Multiple Subject and Single Subject Preliminary Credentials.)

Beginning in late 2004, the Commission will begin content reviews of the following subject matter areas and plans to implement examinations by late 2005.

Agriculture

Business

Health Science

Home Economics

Industrial and Technology Education

### **Analysis of Bill Provisions**

SB 5 would require the State Board of Education to adopt content standards, on or before June 1, 2009, pursuant to recommendations developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, for teaching foreign languages in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

In its current form, SB 5 does not acknowledge the Education Code section requiring the Commission to align subject matter requirements for teachers with California's Academic Content Standards for students nor does it allow the Commission to align its subject matter requirements for teachers as a part of its regularly scheduled review and validation process.

### **Analysis of Fiscal Impact of Bill**

SB 5, as currently written, could result in the Commission's action to align its subject matter program standards and examination specifications in Languages Other Than English outside of the regularly scheduled sequence. There are currently no Academic Content Standards for students in Languages Other Than English. For an initial subject matter alignment for program standards and examination specifications in this area the cost to the Commission for the additional activities would be \$300,000 per language.

### **Analysis of Relevant Legislative Policies by the Commission**

The following Legislative policy applies to this measure:

**1. The Commission supports legislation which proposes to maintain or establish high standards for the preparation of public school teachers and other educators in**

California, and opposes legislation that would lower standards for teachers and other educators.

5. The Commission supports legislation which strengthens or reaffirms initiatives and reforms which it previously has adopted, and opposes legislation which would undermine initiatives or reforms which it previously has adopted.

### **Organizational Positions on the Bill**

#### **Support**

Association of State, County, and Municipal Employees  
California Association of Student Councils  
California Language Teachers Association  
California State PTA  
California Teachers Association  
National Council for Languages and International Studies  
National Youth Rights Association

#### **Opposition**

None known at this time.

### **Suggested Amendments**

Staff recommends that SB 5 be amended to ensure that the Commission is allowed to follow its regularly scheduled timeframe for reviewing its subject matter requirements for teachers and aligning these requirements with the Academic Content Standards for students. The following language is recommended:

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in revising subject matter standards and examinations for teachers to be aligned with the state content and performance standards for pupils pursuant to subdivision (b) (5) of Section 44259, shall do so within its regularly scheduled subject matter content and examination validation timeframe.

### **Reason for Suggested Position**

It appears that the Commission's schedule for reviewing Languages Other Than English might coincide with the date by which SB 5 would require the State Board of Education to adopt Academic Content Standards for students. However, it would be prudent to acknowledge that relying on coincidence is less than sound fiscal policy.

Staff has discussed this issue with Senator Karnette's consultant responsible for SB 5. The consultant has been very responsive to suggestions for resolving an unintended consequence of the measure. For the above reasons staff recommends a position of **Approve if Amended** on SB 5.