

Date of Hearing: May 8, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 1703 (Bloom) – As Amended April 29, 2019

Policy Committee: Higher Education

Vote: 11 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires, contingent on appropriation, the formation of a “neurodiversity and learning collaborative,” with the intent of bringing together brain researcher and educators to use brain research to improve teaching of students with neurodiversity, including dyslexia and literacy issues. Specifically, the bill requires the University of California (UC) at Los Angeles, the California State University (CSU) at Dominguez Hills and CSU campuses serving the Los Angeles Basin, as selected by the CSU trustees, to develop new interventions and teaching practices, based on brain research, and test them in public schools that volunteer to participate. It also requires the collaborative to develop a teacher training curriculum for teacher credentialing, to be approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Ongoing General Fund costs, in the \$500,000 range, for at least two CSU campuses to participate in the program. Costs would include a program director’s salary, faculty compensation and additional costs, such as support for graduate assistants and stipends for teachers and students. In addition, one-time General Fund cost pressures to the CSU trustees to select the CSU campus or campuses.
- 2) Ongoing General Fund costs, in the \$250,000 range, for UC to participate in the program. The author’s office indicates private donations and foundation support may be available to offset some costs to UC. To the extent these funds are available, General Fund costs would be lower.
- 3) Unknown Proposition 98 General Fund or General Fund for schools test the interventions and techniques.
- 4) No additional General Fund costs to CTC, as costs likely would be covered by the existing credentialing process, whereby teacher candidate programs pay fees to cover CTC’s costs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose and Background.** According to information provided by the author’s office, dyslexia is estimated to affect roughly 15% of the U.S. population. This bill is intended to provide tools for teachers to address these students’ needs by bringing together brain science and K-12 education experts to develop innovative teaching methods. Currently, teachers need

to meet certain requirements to become fully credentialed by the CTC. This bill integrate training on neurodiversity to these requirements.

Analysis Prepared by: Natasha Collins / APPR. / (916) 319-2081