

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 1039 (Nguyen) – As Introduced February 18, 2021

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill extends by four years, from March 31, 2023, to March 31, 2027, the dates by which, subject to funding, the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) must develop and submit to the State Board of Education (SBE), and the SBE must adopt, modify, or revise or reject, three model curricula. The three model curricula are relative to (a) the Vietnamese American refugee experience, (b) the Cambodian genocide and (c) Hmong history and cultural studies.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No additional GF costs.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

When I was in the State Senate, my bill SB 895 related to developing a model curriculum around the Vietnamese American, Cambodian American and Hmong American experiences passed both houses unanimously and was signed into law by Governor Brown. AB 1039 will simply extend the sunset in order for the IQC and the various communities to continue this important work with the State Board of Education and get this curriculum to our students.

2) **Background.** “Model curricula” are curricula the state through legislation has directed the SBE or the IQC to develop and approve on a specific topic or area of study. Schools and teachers are not required to use the curricula in class, but the curricula is available on CDE’s website and includes guides for instruction and sample lessons for different grade levels aligned with state educational standards.

Currently available model curricula on the CDE website are the César E. Chávez Model Curriculum and the Human Rights and Genocide Model Curriculum. In March of 2021, the SBE approved the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.

Statute requires the SBE and IQC to develop and approve four additional model curricula: AB 738 (Limon), Chapter 614, Statutes of 2017, requires the development of a model curriculum in Native American studies by December 31, 2021. The implementation of this bill is subject to the receipt of grants, donations or other financial support from private or public sources. According to the CDE, the IQC has not yet begun formal development of the

curriculum because funding has not been provided, from the annual budget act or otherwise. CDE estimates one model curriculum to take three years and about \$850,000 to develop.

SB 895 (Nguyen), Chapter 686 Statutes of 2018, requires the IQC to develop and submit to the SBE by December 31, 2022, and requires the SBE to adopt, modify, or revise, by March 31, 2023, three separate model curricula related to the Vietnamese American refugee experience, the Cambodian genocide and Hmong history and cultural studies. The implementation of this bill also is subject to the receipt of grants, donations or other financial support from private or public sources. According to the CDE, the IQC also has not yet begun formal development of the curricula because funding has not been provided, from the annual budget act or otherwise. CDE estimates development costs of about \$850,000 for each curriculum or about \$2.5 million total for the three curricula.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 101 (Medina), of this Legislative Session, would require students, commencing with the graduating class of 2029-30, to complete a one semester course in ethnic studies to receive a high school diploma, and require, commencing with the 2025–26 school year, that local educational agencies and charter schools serving students in grades 9 through 12 offer at least a one-semester course in ethnic studies. The bill is currently pending a hearing in the Assembly Education Committee.

AB 331 (Medina), of the 2019-20 Legislative Session, would have required, commencing with the graduating class of 2029-30, students enrolled in grades 9 to 12 to complete a semester-long course in ethnic studies in order to graduate from high school and would have permitted the ethnic studies course requirement to be met through several course options, including locally developed courses and courses aligned to the ethnic studies model curriculum. The bill was vetoed.

AB 1393 (Weber), of the 2019-20 Legislative Session, would have added Laotian history and cultural studies to the model curriculum in Hmong history and cultural studies that, subject to funding, the IQC is required to develop and submit to the SBE by December 31, 2022, and that the SBE is required to adopt, modify or reject by March 31, 2023. The bill was vetoed.

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