

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 1039 (Nguyen and Kalra)
As Introduced February 18, 2021
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Extends by four years the dates by which 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, model curricula relative to the Vietnamese American refugee experience, the Cambodian genocide, and Hmong history and cultural studies, to March 31, 2023, to March 31, 2027, respectively.

Major Provisions

- 1) Extends, from December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2026, the date by which the IQC must develop and submit to the SBE a model curriculum relative to the Vietnamese American refugee experience, the Cambodian Genocide, and Hmong history and cultural studies.
- 2) Extends, from March 31, 2023, to March 31, 2027, the date by which the SBE must adopt, modify, or revise the model curricula.

COMMENTS

State model curricula. Model curricula are curricula developed by the state on a specific topic or area of study. Use of model curricula by schools is voluntary. The curricula are made available on the California Department of Education's (CDE) website and include guides for instruction and sample lessons for different grade levels aligned with state content 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.

Model curricula required to be developed under current law. 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.

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.

Related bill vetoed. AB 1393 (Weber) of the 2019-20 Session would have added Laotian history and cultural studies to the model curriculum in Hmong history and cultural studies that 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. This bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom, who stated:

While I appreciate the interest in addressing a gap in prior legislation, I remain concerned that the current process is piecemeal and fragmented, as the adoption of the ethnic studies model has displayed. Before we move forward with additional model curricula, I believe a review of the existing process is necessary to support reforms needed so that our schools can provide instruction in a manner that reflects and honors the experiences of all Californians.

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. SB 895 required the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to develop and recommend to the State Board of Education the adoption of model curriculum relative to the refugee experience, specifically to include the stories of Vietnamese-American refugees, among them the accounts of Vietnamese boat people and the members of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, as well as stories of the Cambodian genocide and Hmong history and cultural studies. It sought to help and increase cultural awareness. Given the COVID-19 shutdown, the various communities have had to delay their work with the Department of Education. 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."

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, no additional General Fund costs.

VOTES

ASM EDUCATION: 7-0-0

YES: O'Donnell, Kiley, Bennett, Megan Dahle, Lee, McCarty, Quirk-Silva

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 16-0-0

YES: Lorena Gonzalez, Bigelow, Bonta, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Megan Dahle, Davies, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Levine, Quirk, Robert Rivas, McCarty, Reyes

UPDATED

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