

Date of Hearing: April 19, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 1127 (Reyes) – As Introduced February 15, 2023

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill extends the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program (BTPDP) by five and a half years and updates and makes changes to the California Department of Education's (CDE) administration of the program.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Extends the project performance period for BTPDP, from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2029.
- 2) Extends, from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2029, the dates by which grant recipients under BTPDP must report to CDE on the number of participants who were issued bilingual authorizations, the number of previously authorized teachers who have participated in the program and subsequently returned to bilingual teaching assignments, and the number of teachers who are still working at least 50% of the time in a bilingual setting.
- 3) Requires CDE to meet quarterly with grant recipients to share promising practices and resources, and to resolve issues of implementation.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of an undefined amount to fund the extension of BTPDP.

According to a support letter from the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), one of the bill's co-sponsors, "We are seeking a budget appropriation of \$20 million to reinstate this critical program."

- 2) One-time General Fund costs of about \$316,000 for CDE for several staff to administer BTPDP.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to one of the bill's co-sponsors, Californians Together:

According to a March 2021 study by the Learning Policy Institute (LPI), California continues to experience an ongoing teacher shortage, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in more under-prepared teachers teaching California students

who would benefit from this program. LPI highlights California's difficulty in finding teachers for special education, math, science, and bilingual education—categories that have historically had teacher shortages. Compounding the current shortage of bilingual teachers is the interest in and growth of bilingual and dual-language immersion programs in California schools due to the passage of Proposition 58 in 2016, which was supported by 73.52 percent of voters. Districts across the state are also scrambling for bilingual teachers in multiple languages to staff bilingual classrooms where other languages are taught. This need is specifically seen in California's top five languages (Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, Cantonese, and Filipino), as well as a number of other languages. The BTPDP program would increase the capacity of bilingual teachers, thereby supporting LEAs in their quest to hire bilingual teachers for their bilingual and dual-language immersion programs. This is a “win-win” situation for all—for our students, for parents seeking bilingual programs for their children, and for our LEAs.

- 2) **Background.** AB 99 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 15, Statutes of 2017, established BTPDP and required CDE to allocate \$10 million in grant funding to local educational agencies for purposes of providing professional development services to specified teachers and paraprofessionals to provide instruction to English learners. CDE awarded eight grants of approximately \$625,000. According to CDE, the program was successful in increasing the number of teachers issued bilingual teaching authorizations and in preparing other school staff to support English learners.
- 3) **Prior Legislation.** SB 952 (Limon), of the 2021-22 Legislative Session, would have revised and recast an existing three-year competitive dual language grant program administered by CDE. SB 952 was held on this committee's suspense file.

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