

Date of Hearing: August 16, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

SB 857 (Laird) – As Amended June 26, 2023

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 5 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to convene a task force to identify the statewide needs of LGBTQ+ students and make recommendations on implementing supportive policies and initiatives to address LGBTQ+ student education and well-being.

Specifically, the SPI is to convene the taskforce by July 1, 2024, and submit the report to the Legislature, SPI, and Governor by January 1, 2026. The report is to make recommendations regarding pupil mental health, inclusive and safe access to school families, and inclusive instructional materials and curricula, among other topics. The taskforce is to consist of at least 15 members including representatives of various groups, such as LGBTQ+ students, and is to represent the state's diversity, to the extent practicable.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable General Fund costs to the California Department of Education (CDE).

CDE indicates the requirements of this bill are absorbable within the duties of the recently funded School Health Education Coordinator position at CDE.

COMMENTS:

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

California continues to lead the nation in supporting LGBTQ+ youth both on and off the campus, through robust policy projections and budget allocations. However, we still have a long way to go. Many school districts lack the resources needed to implement these laws, face hostile local social climates that impede implementation, and lack awareness regarding existing legal requirements and the best ways to meet them...SB 857 brings students, teachers, and administrators together to ensure that authentic voices from the community are involved in discussions about how to create a safe and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ students, while providing the State Department of Education with valuable perspectives to ensure resources are efficiently allocated to implement existing laws and better support LGBTQ+ student needs.

- 2) **Related Legislation.** AB 5 (Zbur) would require local educational agencies to provide and require at least one hour of training annually to certificated staff, beginning with the 2025-26 school year through the 2029-30 school year, on cultural competency in supporting LGBTQ+ students. AB 5 is sponsored by the SPI and is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- 3) **Prior Legislation.** AB 493 (Gloria), Chapter 775, Statutes of 2019, requires CDE, by July 1, 2021, to develop resources or update existing resources for in-service training on schoolsite and community resources for the support of LGBTQ+ students. The bill also requires CDE to periodically provide public online trainings on this topic.

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