

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 422 (Jackson)

As Amended September 04, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), when the State Board of Education (SBE) next revises the criteria for awarding the State Seal of Civic Engagement, to recommend revised criteria including a demonstrated understanding of the importance of preserving democracy and its vital institutions.

**Senate Amendments**

Remove the requirement that the SBE, within one year of receiving these recommendations, to adopt, reject, or modify the SPI's recommended criteria.

**COMMENTS**

*State Seal of Civic Engagement.* AB 24 (Eggman), Chapter 604, Statutes of 2017, established the State Seal of Civic Engagement, and required the SBE to establish five criteria for the awarding it. The SBE established these five criteria in 2020.

The criteria are meant to provide LEAs with a framework for making determinations of student qualifications required to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement based on their local contexts. The criteria were written to ensure that no student is excluded from an opportunity to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement based on academic ability, alternative school settings, or unique or unconventional expressions of civic engagement. The student must:

- 1) Be engaged in academic work in a productive way;
- 2) Demonstrate a competent understanding of United States and California constitutions; functions and governance of local governments; tribal government structures and organizations; the role of the citizen in a constitutional democracy; and democratic principles, concepts, and processes;
- 3) Participate in one or more informed civic engagement project(s) that address real-world problems and require students to identify and inquire into civic needs or problems, consider varied responses, take action, and reflect on efforts;
- 4) Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions through self-reflection; and
- 5) Exhibit character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community and/or society.

*State Seal of Civic Engagement data.* Participation in this program has been small but growing. According to the California Department of Education:

- 1) In the 2020-21 school year, 103 schools participated in 28 school districts, and 5,359 Seals were issued.

In the 2023-24 school year, 345 schools participated in 110 school districts, and 15,627 Seals were issued.

### **According to the Author**

"Expanding the democracy criteria for the state seal of civic engagement is crucial for fostering informed, active, and responsible citizens. Comprehensive democracy education empowers students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand their rights and responsibilities in a democratic society and combat misinformation. It promotes critical thinking, encourages participation in civic activities, and helps students appreciate the principles of justice, equality, and freedom."

### **Arguments in Support**

The California State PTA writes, "Passage of AB 422 (Jackson) will help to provide students with the educational opportunities they need to further understand our democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels. California State PTA believes that civic literacy education is vital to ensure that all students have a foundational understanding of our democratic system and are prepared to participate actively in civic life, including how to engage in respectful and informed discourse, and how to advocate for their rights and beliefs."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the CDE estimates one-time General Fund costs of \$355,000 to develop and recommend criteria revisions to the SBE upon the next revision of the State Seal of Civic Engagement criteria, while maintaining administration and oversight of the program.

## **VOTES:**

### **ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0**

**YES:** Muratsuchi, Hoover, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Patel

### **ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1**

**YES:** Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Sanchez

### **ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0-0**

**YES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**UPDATED**

VERSION: September 04, 2025

CONSULTANT: Tanya Lieberman / ED. / (916) 319-2087

FN: 0001998