

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 670 (Cervantes) – As Amended April 10, 2025

Policy Committee:	Higher Education	Vote:	9 - 0
	Education		9 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill defines “immigrant integration” for purposes of the Adult Education Program as a two-way process in which immigrants and the receiving society work together to build secure, thriving, cohesive, and inclusive communities through which immigrants are embraced and welcomed by the receiving society with effective, culturally relevant, and linguistically accessible programs and services that facilitate their linguistic, economic, civic, and social integration and provide upward social and economic mobility, increased civic participation, and multigenerational integration, and service providers encourage immigrants to maximize their contributions to the economic and civic life of their communities.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No fiscal effect.

COMMENTS:

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

SB 670 seeks to establish a clear definition of immigrant integration in order to enhance both the effectiveness and equity of adult skills programs. The legislation recognizes that successful integration depends not only on English proficiency but also on civic participation and economic inclusion. These elements are vital for the success of immigrants, their families, and the communities they choose to call home.

2) **Background.** Primarily school districts and community colleges provide adult education programs in California. Adult education provides adults with valuable skills and education to help enable them to earn a high school diploma or a general educational development certificate, become United States citizens, acquire specific job skills, learn English, and/or become independent and productive parents and members of their community.

SB 84 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 25, Statutes of 2015, established the position of Statewide Director of Immigrant Integration to serve as the statewide lead for the planning and coordination of immigrant services and policies. Later, AB 2098 (McCarty), Chapter 751, Statutes of 2018, required the California Community Colleges Chancellor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with input from the Statewide Director of

Immigration Integration and adult education program providers, to identify common measures for meeting the needs of immigrant and refugee adults seeking integration, and to identify measures for assessing the effectiveness of adult education consortia providing immigrant integration.

A workgroup authorized by AB 2098 issued recommendations in 2019 to “promote California’s civic and economic health by developing coordinated statewide immigrant integration policies and initiatives” which included a definition of immigrant integration that is similar to the definition in this bill. Additionally, the Networks for Integrating New Americans (NINA) released a framework regarding adult education and immigration integration that includes a definition of “immigrant integration” that addresses the engagement, contributions, expectations and responsibilities of immigrants. The definition proposed by this bill blends definitions from the AB 2098 workgroup recommendations and the NINA framework.

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