



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Amendment

LCO No. 7929

Offered by:

REP. POWERS, 151st Dist.

REP. FARR, 19th Dist.

REP. GIBBONS, 150th Dist.

REP. FLOREN, 149th Dist.

REP. BERNHARD, 136th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6751

File No. 464

Cal. No. 333

"AN ACT CONCERNING MASTERY TEST EXEMPTIONS."

1 After line 15 insert the following and renumber the remaining
2 section accordingly:

3 "Sec. 2. Section 10-17f of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

5 (a) Annually, the board of education for each local and regional
6 school district shall ascertain, in accordance with regulations adopted
7 by the State Board of Education, the eligible students in such school
8 district and shall classify such students according to their dominant
9 language.

10 (b) Whenever it is ascertained that there are in any public school
11 within a local or regional school district twenty or more eligible
12 students classified as dominant in any one language other than

13 English, the board of education of such district shall provide a
14 program of bilingual education for such eligible students for the school
15 year next following, except that a board of education may provide an
16 English as a second language program in place of a program of
17 bilingual education if the town in which the school district is located
18 has a total population, as defined in section 10-261, of less than one
19 hundred thousand. Eligible students shall be placed in [such] a
20 program of bilingual education or an English as a second language
21 program in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.

22 (c) On or before July 1, 2000, the State Board of Education, within
23 available appropriations, shall develop a state English mastery
24 standard to assess the linguistic and academic progress of students in
25 programs of bilingual education. On and after September 1, 2000, each
26 local and regional board of education shall assess, annually, the
27 progress made by each student toward meeting the state standard. If a
28 student is not making sufficient progress toward meeting the state
29 standard based on the assessment, the local or regional board of
30 education shall provide language support services to the student in
31 consultation with the parent or guardian of the student to allow the
32 student to meet the state standard. Such services may include, but
33 need not be limited to, summer school, after-school assistance and
34 tutoring. If a student meets the state standard based on the assessment,
35 the student shall leave the program. Each local and regional board of
36 education shall document on a student's permanent record the date the
37 student begins in a program of bilingual education and the date and
38 results of the assessments required pursuant to this subsection.

39 (d) Each local and regional board of education shall limit the time
40 an eligible student spends in a program of bilingual education to thirty
41 months, whether or not such months are consecutive, except that
42 summer school and two-way language programs pursuant to
43 subsection (i) of this section shall not be counted. If an eligible student
44 does not meet the English mastery standard at the end of thirty
45 months, the local or regional board of education shall provide
46 language transition support services to such student. Such services

47 may include, but need not be limited to, English as a second language
48 programs, sheltered English programs, English immersion programs,
49 tutoring and homework assistance. Families may also receive guidance
50 from school professionals to help their children make progress in their
51 native language. If an eligible student enrolls in a secondary school
52 when the student has fewer than thirty months remaining before
53 graduation, the local or regional board of education shall assign the
54 student to an English as a second language program and may provide
55 intensive services to the student to enable the student to speak, write
56 and comprehend English by the time the student graduates and to
57 meet the course requirements for graduation.

58 (e) Each local and regional board of education shall hold a meeting
59 with the parents and legal guardians of eligible students to explain the
60 benefits of the language program options available in the school
61 district, including an English language immersion program. The
62 parents and legal guardians may bring an interpreter or an advisor to
63 the meeting. If the local or regional board of education provides a
64 program of bilingual education pursuant to subsection (b) of this
65 section in the school an eligible student attends or will attend and the
66 parent or legal guardian of [an eligible] such student opts to have such
67 student placed in [a program of bilingual education] such program, the
68 local or regional board of education shall place the [child] student in
69 such program.

70 (f) The board of education for each local and regional school district
71 which [is required to provide] provides a program of bilingual
72 education shall initially endeavor to implement the provisions of
73 subsection (b) of this section through in-service training for existing
74 certified professional employees, and thereafter, shall give preference
75 in hiring to such certified professional employees as are required to
76 maintain the program.

77 (g) The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations, in
78 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish requirements
79 for: (1) Such programs, which may be modeled after policy established

80 by the Department of Education for bilingual education programs; (2)
81 local and regional boards of education to integrate bilingual and
82 English as a second language program faculty in all staff, planning and
83 curriculum development activities; and (3) all bilingual education
84 teachers employed by a local or regional board of education, on and
85 after July 1, 2001, to meet all certification requirements, including
86 completion of a teacher preparation program approved by the State
87 Board of Education, or to be certified through an alternate route to
88 certification program.

89 (h) Each board of education for a local and regional school district
90 which [is required to provide] provides for the first time a program of
91 bilingual education pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall
92 prepare and submit to the Commissioner of Education for review a
93 plan to implement such program, in accordance with regulations
94 adopted by the State Board of Education.

95 (i) Each local and regional board of education that [is required to
96 provide] provides a program of bilingual education pursuant to
97 subsection (b) of this section shall investigate the feasibility of
98 establishing two-way language programs starting in kindergarten.

99 Sec. 3. Section 10-17g of the general statutes is repealed and the
100 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

101 Annually, the board of education for each local and regional school
102 district that [is required to provide] provides a program of bilingual
103 education, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-17f, as amended by
104 this act, may make application to the State Board of Education and
105 shall thereafter receive a grant in an amount equal to the product
106 obtained by multiplying the total appropriation available for such
107 purpose by the ratio which the number of eligible children in the
108 school district bears to the total number of such eligible children state-
109 wide. The board of education for each local and regional school district
110 receiving funds pursuant to this section shall annually, on or before
111 September first, submit to the State Board of Education a progress

112 report which shall include (1) measures of increased educational
113 opportunities for eligible students, including language support
114 services and language transition support services provided to such
115 students, (2) program evaluation and measures of the effectiveness of
116 its bilingual education and English as a second language programs,
117 including data on students in bilingual education programs and
118 students educated exclusively in English as a second language
119 programs, and (3) certification by the board of education submitting
120 the report that any funds received pursuant to this section have been
121 used for the purposes specified. The State Board of Education shall
122 annually evaluate programs conducted pursuant to section 10-17f, as
123 amended by this act. For purposes of this section, measures of the
124 effectiveness of bilingual education and English as a second language
125 programs include state-wide mastery examination results and
126 graduation and school dropout rates."