

CCSS Legislative Report
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Curricular Reforms

1. AB 2735 (O'Donnell): This excellent bill will require English language learners to be given all four code academic disciplines (including H/SS). About to be sent to the Governor for signature/veto.
2. AB 2002 (Arambula): Requires the SBE to revise the HSS Framework to include the history of the Hmong and their contributions to the "Secret War" in Laos. Bill Died in Appropriations Committee.
3. SB 895 (Nguyen): Requires the IQC to develop and the SBE to vote to adopt/modify/reject model curriculum relative to the Vietnamese American refugee experience. Moving to Governor's desk.

Ethnic Studies

4. AB 2772 (Medina): As introduced, this bill would have required a full year Ethnic Studies bill as a condition for high school graduation. After working with the Asm Ed Comm Chair, CCSS was able to convince the author to pare-back the bill to only a single-semester course (to save other single-semester, HSS-related electives) AND to count Ethnic Literature courses that are currently being taught by English departments as an alternative to this mandate. To pass Appropriations Committee, the bill was amended into a state grant (with no funds set-aside, yet) to assist districts that adopt an Ethnic Studies course for graduation (e.g., professional development, etc.).

Econ/Financial Lit

5. AB 2015 (Reyes): This bill, as initially introduced, would have required students to fill-out college financial aid form (FAFSA) as part of the 12th grade Economics, single-semester course. CCSS expressed our concerns about (a) taking limited instructional time in this highly-compact course to fill-out forms (that require parental/custodian financial information and signatures) and (b) the timing (for secondary students wanting to go to college immediately following high school, applications are due well before they take this 12th grade course). Responding to our concerns, the author amended the bill to require students be given assistance and time to fill out FAFSA but during a time chosen by districts, not during Econ class.
6. SB 583 (Stone): This two-year bill began as a means of providing high schools the option of meeting the state graduation requirement for Economics by taking a yet-to-be developed, state-approved Financial Literacy course. After considerable CCSS engagement, the author amended his bill to have the State Board adopt model curriculum for an elective Fin Lit course and encourage schools to offer it, though no longer at the expense of the existing Econ course. The bill stalled in Assembly Approp's and is dead for this Legislative Session (which adjourns next week).
7. SB 1055 (Bradford): Following Senator Newman's recall, Senator Bradford took up this bill that will allow banks to sponsor promotions to encourage (particularly young) people to open savings accounts, without running afoul of current lottery/raffle-prohibition laws. The bill is sailing through unopposed.

Civic Engagement

8. SB 1400 (Stern): Would drop the current, voter pre-registration age from 16 to 15. Never pursued. Dead.

9. SB 1462 (Newman): Was a “spot bill” (non-substantive placeholder) for last year’s enacted “CA Youth Leadership Project” — which encourages youth civic engagement, but no author picked it up following Newman’s recent recall election.

Media Literacy

10. AB 2523 (Grayson): Would encourage SBE to develop computer science content standards and include digital literacy as part of those new standards. Never pursued beyond introduction. Dead.

11. SB 830 (Dodd/Jackson): Requires SBE to adopt model curriculum in media literacy, and have CDE make relevant resources available online. Continues to move but was stripped of all state funding.

12. SB 947 (Jackson/Dodd): Require SPI, in consultation with SBE and a yet to be established advisory committee, to identify best practices for instruction in digital citizenship, Internet safety, and media literacy, and to make recommendations by 2021 to the Legislature that may require statutory reforms. Continues to move along side SB 830.