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May 16, 1990

Law and Legislation Committee, Sacramento, California

**Sacramento Public Library  
and Information Service**

1010-8th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-3576  
916-440-5926

**HONORABLE MEMBERS IN SESSION:**

**SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3381 BAKER  
"CALIFORNIA LIBRARY LITERACY SERVICE"**

**SUMMARY:**

Establishes the "California Library Literacy Service" as a public library services program designed to reduce adult illiteracy by providing literacy instruction and related services to English-speaking adults and youth who are not enrolled in school.

**BACKGROUND:**

The California Literacy Campaign, in which the Sacramento Public Library was a participant, established an effective program for the reduction of illiteracy by mobilizing public libraries of California as providers of individualized literacy instruction for English-speaking adults. Current law zeroed funding for the Sacramento Literacy Project at the end of the fifth year. The Sacramento Public Library is now in its seventh year of operating a major, cost-effective, volunteer-sustained, tutor literacy program. Currently, the Sacramento program is reaching over 600 individual adult learners. Establishment of a funded, ongoing literacy program would allow full time staff support for literacy volunteers and expansion of the program to reach more potential adult learners not enrolled in the program. Without such support, program abilities remain limited to current levels.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The Sacramento Public Library already supports a limited literacy program based at Belle Cooledge Library. Over 600 adult learners are currently enrolled in the program. Additional funds would allow expansion of this program.

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POLICY IMPACT:

Consistent with the City's past support of literacy efforts.

MBE/WBE:

Any addition of staff resulting from passage of this bill will follow City goals for MBE/WBE.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Sacramento Public Library recommends Law & Legislation Committee support for Assembly Bill 3381 Baker.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard M. Killian  
Library Director

Law and Legislation  
May 24, 1990  
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90-254

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 3381**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Baker**

February 27, 1990

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An act to add Article 4.2 (commencing with Section 18733) to Chapter 4 of Part 11 of the Education Code, relating to education, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3381, as introduced, Baker. Adult illiteracy.

Existing law establishes a library services program designed to prevent illiteracy through coordinated literacy and preliteracy services to families that include illiterate adults and young children.

This bill would establish, in addition, the California Library Literacy Service, as a public library services program designed to reduce adult illiteracy by providing literacy instruction and related services to English-speaking adults and youth who are not enrolled in school. The bill would authorize the State Librarian to annually make apportionments of state funding to public libraries to share costs incurred in operating adult literacy instructional programs in accordance with designated criteria. The bill would require, as a condition of funding eligibility, that a public library annually submit a plan of service and a proposed budget to the State Librarian for his or her review and approval.

The bill would also direct the State Library to provide administrative support and technical assistance to participating public libraries, and to conduct and coordinate specified services in support of the adult literacy instructional programs operated by those libraries.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares  
2 the following:

3 (1) There are more than 3,100,000 functionally  
4 illiterate adults in California. The majority of these adults  
5 are able to speak, but not able to read or write, the  
6 English language.

7 (2) An adult's ability to function in our contemporary  
8 information age is critically and inextricably related to his  
9 or her literacy level and is of importance, therefore, both  
10 to the individual and to the whole of California society.

11 (3) The need for adult literacy development is  
12 long-term and is increasing more rapidly than the state's  
13 literacy service capability.

14 (4) The needs of illiterate adults are varied, and can  
15 best be met by a variety of approaches delivered through  
16 public and private organizations.

17 (5) Adult literacy development involves growth in  
18 many aspects of an individual's life and requires unique  
19 instructional strategies and assessment procedures.

20 (6) Knowledge about the extent of illiteracy in  
21 California and the means to address it requires ongoing  
22 expansion.

23 (7) The California Literacy Campaign has proven  
24 itself to be an effective program, and has made important  
25 progress toward the reduction of illiteracy by mobilizing  
26 public libraries of California as providers of  
27 individualized literacy instruction for English-speaking  
28 adults.

29 (8) A partnership between state and local  
30 government has proven to be effective and necessary to  
31 provide adequate resources for library literacy services.

32 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to codify and  
33 enhance the California Literacy Campaign in order to

1 establish a public library literacy service for  
2 English-speaking adults in California which wil  
3 complement the activities of other public and private  
4 adult education programs.

5 SEC. 2. Article 4.2 (commencing with Section 18733)  
6 is added to Chapter 4 of Part 11 of the Education Code,  
7 to read:

8  
9 Article 4.2. California Library Literacy Service

10  
11 18733. The California Library Literacy Service is  
12 hereby established, as a public library services program  
13 designed to reduce adult illiteracy by providing literacy  
14 instruction and related services to English-speaking  
15 adults and youth who are not enrolled in school.

16 18733.1. (a) In order to be eligible for state funding  
17 under this article, a public library shall establish an adult  
18 literacy instructional program in accordance with this  
19 article, which shall provide adult basic literacy  
20 instruction and related services. Participant learning  
21 shall be evaluated on the basis of statewide guidelines  
22 established by the State Librarian.

23 (b) For the first five years of the program, the public  
24 library shall do all of the following in establishing and  
25 implementing the program:

26 (1) Seek community and local government awarenes  
27 of and support for the program and develop a local  
28 commitment of resources for the program's continuation.

29 (2) Participate in existing community adult literacy  
30 coalitions, in order to address the wide variety of literacy  
31 needs of the community and ensure an effective  
32 utilization of resources. The public library shall assist in  
33 the establishment of a community adult literacy coalition  
34 where none currently exists.

35 (3) Seek the involvement of trained volunteers to  
36 provide tutoring and other services in public library and  
37 other community settings.

38 18733.2. (a) No later than January 1 of each year,  
39 each public library seeking funding under this article for  
40 the subsequent fiscal year shall submit to the State

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1 Librarian a plan of service describing its proposed  
2 operation of the adult literacy instructional program for  
3 the subsequent year, and a proposed budget for that  
4 program, which shall be subject to the review and  
5 approval of the State Librarian. The State Librarian shall  
6 identify those costs that shall be reimbursable, based  
7 upon the stated purposes of this article and the amount  
8 of funding for those purposes made available by the  
9 Legislature.

10 (b) To the extent funding is made available by the  
11 Legislature for the purposes of this article, the State  
12 Librarian shall annually apportion, to each public library  
13 for which a plan of service and proposed budget are  
14 approved pursuant to subdivision (a), an amount equal to  
15 the following:

16 (1) For the first fiscal year of operation, 50 percent of  
17 the reimbursable costs of the program.

18 (2) For the second fiscal year of operation, 100 percent  
19 of the reimbursable costs of the program.

20 (3) For the third fiscal year of operation, 100 percent  
21 of the reimbursable costs of the program.

22 (4) For the fourth fiscal year of operation, 75 percent  
23 of the reimbursable costs of the program.

24 (5) For the fifth fiscal year of operation, 50 percent of  
25 the reimbursable costs of the program.

26 (6) For the sixth, and each subsequent, fiscal year of  
27 operation, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the reimbursable costs of  
28 the program.

29 18733.3. The State Library shall provide  
30 administrative support and technical assistance to public  
31 libraries in the development and operation of the adult  
32 literacy instructional programs conducted by public  
33 libraries pursuant to this article. In addition, the State  
34 Library shall conduct and coordinate services in support  
35 of those programs, including, but not limited to, the  
36 following:

37 (a) Research, and dissemination of research, on the  
38 prevalence and characteristics of adult illiteracy and the  
39 efficacy of various basic literacy instructional strategies  
40 and methodologies.

1 (b) Enhancement of public education and awareness  
2 regarding adult literacy.

3 (c) Training of tutors and of persons who train tutors.

4 (d) Training of public library literacy staff in  
5 volunteer recruitment and the management of volunteer  
6 programs.

7 SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for  
8 the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,  
9 or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the  
10 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts  
11 constituting the necessity are:

12 In order to reduce the critically high incidence of adult  
13 illiteracy in this state, and the current impact of that  
14 illiteracy on the state's economy, in a timely manner, it  
15 is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

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