

Date of Hearing: May 1, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Patrick O'Donnell, Chair

AB 1062 (Limón) – As Amended April 4, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Pupil instruction: community emergency response training

**SUMMARY:** Requires the governing board of a school district to provide a pupil with credit for no less than 20 hours of the community service hours required for graduation upon completion of a course in community emergency response training, if the school district requires the completion of community service hours as a requirement for graduation from high school.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes high school graduation requirements, and authorizes school districts to establish additional requirements for graduation.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This bill has been keyed non-fiscal by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

***Need for the bill.*** The author states, “Disasters come in many forms and having students prepared on how to react and respond in a time of crisis can go a long way in keeping communities out of harm’s way. Whether in school or out in the community, emergency preparedness efforts can help keep everyone safe while first responders arrive on the scene. AB 1062 will provide students who complete the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training course with basic skills they can use to help their community’s immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster, when emergency services are not immediately available, while receiving credit towards graduation.”

***State graduation requirements.*** Current law establishes requirements for graduation from high school, including: three year-long courses in English, two year-long courses in mathematics, two year-long courses in science, two year-long courses in social studies, one semester social studies course in government, one semester course in economics, and one year long course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education. School district governing boards may adopt additional graduation requirements.

***Health Education Content Standards.*** The California Health Education Content Standards for High School (grades nine through twelve), adopted in 2008, include the following standards related to emergency preparedness and response:

- 1.3.S: Analyze emergency preparedness plans for the home, the school, and the community.
- 1.10.S: Describe procedures for emergency care and lifesaving, including CPR, first aid, and control of bleeding.
- 1.11.S: Identify ways to stay safe during natural disasters and emergency situations (e.g., landslides, floods, earthquakes, wildfires, electrical storms, winter storms, and terrorist attacks).

***Community Emergency Response Training.*** The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is the most widely-known community emergency response training, and was created as a part of the Citizen Corps. Following the events of September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush launched Citizen Corps to capture and standardize local service efforts following the terrorist attacks.

CERT is a Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sponsored nationwide program of trained volunteers. According to the FEMA, “The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area. Community members are trained in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, incident command, and disaster medical operations. Using skills learned in classroom training, drills, and exercises, CERT members can assist others after an event and before first responders can arrive on the scene.

The Teen CERT concept was created to address preparedness and response capabilities from within high schools. Teen CERT aims to train students in emergency preparedness and basic response to ensure that they have the skills needed to protect themselves, and assist others, in the event of an emergency.”

The Teen CERT Program takes approximately 20 to 30 hours to complete. The Teen CERT Program training materials suggest the trainings take place afterschool, on the weekends, or as a camp during the summer months. During the training students learn how to:

- Extinguish small fires
- Conduct light search and rescue
- Assist those that are injured
- Setup medical treatment areas
- Assist emergency responders
- Identify and anticipate hazards
- Reduce fire hazards in the home and workplace
- Help reduce survivor stress

***The Committee may wish to consider*** that this bill sets an unusual precedent by requiring governing boards of school districts to provide credit for community service hours for specified programs and activities. If passed, it is very likely this Committee will see an increased number of bills to require the governing boards of school districts to provide pupils with credit for participation in specified community service programs in the future.

***Committee amendments.*** Staff recommend this bill be amended to authorize, rather than require, the governing boards of school districts to provide a pupil with credit for no less than 20 hours of the community service hours required for graduation upon completion of a course in community emergency response training, if the school district requires the completion of community service hours as a requirement for graduation from high school.

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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