

Date of Hearing: March 13, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair  
AB 198 (Quirk-Silva) – As Introduced January 10, 2019

**SUBJECT:** California Career Resource Network Program: career aptitude test

**SUMMARY:** Requires the development and distribution of a career aptitude test for pupils in middle school and high school. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the California Career Resource Network Program to develop and distribute a career aptitude test that presents middle school and high school pupils with various career options aligned with their academic and extracurricular interests.
- 2) Makes other technical and clarifying changes.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the California Career Resource Network Program, formerly called the California Occupational Information Coordinating Committee for the purposes of meeting federal requirements, and for other purposes authorized by the Legislature. The mission of the program is to provide all persons in California with career development information and resources to enable them to reach their career goals. (EC 53086)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:**

**Background.** According to the California Department of Education (CDE), the California Career Resource Network is a program at CDE, which is tasked with distributing career information, resources, and training materials to middle school and high school counselors, educators, and administrators, in order to ensure that middle schools and high schools have the necessary information available to provide pupils with guidance and instruction on education and job requirements necessary for career development. The program is required to perform its duties only upon funding provided for this purpose in the annual Budget Act.

Information and resources distributed by the California Career Resource Network includes:

- 1) Encouragement to students in completing secondary education.
- 2) Career exploration tools, which offer an introduction to the nature of career planning, self-assessment, methods of investigating the work world, methods of identifying and meeting education and training needs, and methods of creating a career action plan.
- 3) Relevant information on the labor market and career opportunities.
- 4) Assistance to a pupil in the acquisition and development of career competencies including the appropriate skills, attitudes, and knowledge to allow a pupil to successfully manage his or her career.

Since 1998, the network been part of a nationwide program called the America's Career Resource Network authorized through the Carl D. Perkins Act Vocational and Technical Education Act, recently reauthorized as the “Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act”.

The State Agency Partners Committee coordinates the use of California Career Resource Network information and resources in programs that are implemented by the entities that the members of the committee represent, including a representative of each of the following:

- a) The Director of Employment Development.
- b) The Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- c) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.
- d) The Director of Rehabilitation.
- e) The Director of Social Services.
- f) The Executive Director of the California Workforce Investment Board.
- g) The Director of the Division of Adult Institutions in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- h) The Director of the Division of Juvenile Justice in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- i) The Director of Developmental Services.

It is unclear why this bill is requiring the development of a new career aptitude test for students. ***Committee staff recommend*** that the bill be amended to require the California Career Resource Network Program to identify currently available, evidence-based career aptitude tests, and to post these on the CDE website.

***Prior legislation.*** HR 30 (Quirk-Silva) of the 2017-2018 Session, expresses findings and declarations regarding the California Career Resource Network and resolves that public schools should make full use of the resources to provide students with exposure to various career options.

SB 665 (Migden), Chapter 208, Statutes of 2005 established the California Career Resource Network to provide career development information and training, primarily to middle and high school students, and repealed the California Occupational Information Coordinating Committee, which formerly compiled labor market data.

#### **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

##### **Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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