

Senate Bill 532

Protecting Students' Voices Senator Connie M. Leyva (D-Chino)

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 532 would protect the voice of students by ensuring a formal and transparent process for both the establishment and removal of a student school board member position on a school district's governing board.

BACKGROUND

California Education Code currently requires the establishment of a student school board member position if 10% of students in the district or 500 students, whichever is less, sign a petition. This student board member does not have voting power but is there to ensure that the student voice is heard during school board meetings.

PROBLEM

In April 2014, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) students submitted the necessary petition with at least 500 signatures to establish a student board member position. The school board decided that the Superintendent would make recommendations regarding the petition within 120 days. However, after more than a year, the 600,000 students within LAUSD still do not have a voice on their school board.

Current law does not provide for the installation or the removal of the student school board member position. Students should be able to have a voice in their education and the absence of a formal process in the education code leaves the student school board member position vulnerable.

SOLUTION

SB 532 creates formal process for both the installation and the removal of the student school board member position.

This bill will require a school board to create the student school board member position within 60 days of receiving a petition from the district's students.

Should a school board decide to remove the student school board position, the board would need a majority vote to remove the position. This proposal ensures that California law protects the opinions and perspectives of our students and their ability to take part in decisions made about their education.

STATUS

Signed – Takes effect January 1, 2016

SUPPORT

California Association of Student Councils (Sponsor)
California School Board Association

CONTACT

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