

Date of Hearing: April 28, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 677 (Dodd) – As Amended April 20, 2015

SUBJECT: School safety: door locks

SUMMARY: Requires K-12 and higher education institutions to equip the doors of every classroom with locks that allow the doors to be locked from the inside. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires all construction projects submitted to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) to include locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside.
- 2) Requires, on and after January 1, 2016, modernization projects, as specified and submitted to the DSA, shall include locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside.
- 3) Specifies that the locks provision to K-12 modernization projects, as specified, only applies to modernization projects that are funded by the proceeds of the sale of bonds issued pursuant to a state bond act for school facilities that is approved by the voters at a statewide election after January 1, 2016.
- 4) Requires, no later than January 1, 2022, the governing board of each school district and each county superintendent of schools to, for each school within its jurisdiction, equip the doors of every classroom and every room with an occupancy of five or more person with locks that allow the doors to be locked from the inside. Requires the locks to conform to the specifications and requirements set forth in the State Building Standards Code.
- 5) Requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) and California State University (CSU) Trustees, and the urges the University of California (UC) Regents, when constructing or modernizing a campus or facility within its jurisdiction, to equip classrooms, offices, or other rooms where students and school staff gather with locking mechanisms that allow the doors to be locked from the inside or equip doors with the best alternative technology that accomplishes the same result.

EXISTING LAW: Provides, as a condition of receipt of state bond funds, that all new construction projects submitted to the DSA include locks that allow classrooms and rooms with an occupancy of five persons or more to be locked from the inside and that these locks conform to Title 24 California Code of Regulations specifications and requirements. Current law exempts doors locked from the outside at all times and pupil restrooms from these requirements (Education Code Section 17075.50)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *This measure was heard and approved by a vote of 7-0 in the Assembly Education Committee relating to issues within its jurisdiction on April 8, 2015.*

Background. The DSA provides design and construction oversight for K–12 schools and community colleges, and develops and maintains accessibility standards and codes utilized in public and private buildings throughout the State of California. The DSA ensures that all plans, specifications, and actual construction comply with Title 24 (California Building Standards Code), develops and maintains accessibility standards pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and reviews a school's working drawings to ensure that the proposed structures meet code requirements for seismic safety, fire & life safety, and accessibility.

Purpose of the measure. According to the author, in the wake of recent school shooting tragedies in Newtown, Connecticut and Taft, California, the state needs to rethink its safety procedures in schools. The author states, "The locks in many school classrooms, offices, and other rooms where students and school staff gather can only be locked from the outside which places school staff and students in jeopardy when educators are forced to go out into a hallway or their public areas to secure their doors during a lockdown." This bill requires all new construction or modernization projects in public schools (K- university) to include installation of locks that allow classrooms to be locked from the inside. The author contends, "The locks will eliminate the need for staff to exit their immediate facility during a disturbance at the school site."

Policy considerations. As presently drafted, this measure requires the CCC, CSU, and requests the UC, when undergoing construction or modernization projects to equip classrooms, offices, or other rooms where students and staff gather, with classroom function locks that allow the doors to be locked from the inside. Existing law does not define "modernization" for the higher education segments, it is unclear as to how the CCC, CSU, and UC would be able to implement this bill when undergoing "modernization" projects.

Additionally, as presently drafted, it is unclear as to when a CCC, CSU, or UC would have to ensure it replaces its existing locks with classroom function locks.

Committee staff recommends the following amendments: 67387. When construction ~~or modernization~~ projects are undertaken at a campus or facility at a facility on a campus within its jurisdiction, the governing board of each campus of the California Community Colleges and the Trustees of the California State University shall, and the Regents of the University of California are requested to...

Lastly, the K-12 sections of this bill are contingent upon the proceeds of the sale of bonds issued pursuant to a state bond act for school facilities that is approved by the voters at a statewide election after January 1, 2016. *The author may wish to consider making the higher education section of this measure contingent upon the proceeds of the sale of bonds issued pursuant to a state bond act for higher education facilities that is approved by the voters at a statewide election after January 1, 2016.*

Related legislation. SB 316 (Block), which was introduced in 2013, would have required, on or after January 1, 2016, all modernization projects submitted to the DSA to include locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside. The bill also directed the State Allocation Board to adjust modernization grants to reflect the associated cost of installing locks. The bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

AB 85 (Mendoza), which was introduced in 2012, would have required all K-12 modernization projects and all community college district new construction projects that include rehabilitation in a classroom or a room with an occupancy of five or more to install locks that can be locked from the inside. The bill as held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

AB 211 (Mendoza), Chapter 430, Statutes of 2010, requires, as a condition for state education bond funds, all new construction projects submitted to the DSA on and after July 1, 2011 to include locks that allow a door to be locked from the inside of a classroom or any room that accommodates five or more people.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

California Federation of Teachers (sponsors)

Opposition

Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

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