



Susan Wengraf
Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 7, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Susan Wengraf
Subject: Support SB 695: Affirmative Consent Education for High School Students

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting Senate Bill (SB) 695 and write a letter urging our representatives to pass this bill. Letters should be sent to State Senator Loni Hancock, Kevin de Leon, Hannah Beth Jackson and Assemblyman Tony Thurmond.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal

BACKGROUND

Building upon California's first-in-the nation "Yes Means yes" Campus Sexual Assault legislation, California Senator Kevin de Leon and Legislative Women's Caucus Chair Hannah Beth Jackson announced Senate Bill 695 which will transform high school curricula to educate adolescents on sexual assault prevention.

SB 695 will require health courses, which are a condition of graduation at a majority of California high schools, to provide instruction on sexual assault, violence and the importance of developing positive, healthy relationships. As written, the bill requires that instruction must include information on the affirmative consent standard established in SB 967. Known nationally as "Yes-Means-Yes", this legislation set a national example and made California the first state in the nation to define affirmative consent and require institutes of higher education to educate students about consent and sexual assault during orientations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

NA

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Susan Wengraf Council District 6 510-981-7160

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: SB 695 Text

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUPPORT SB 695

WHEREAS, today's culture is so anti-young woman; and

WHEREAS, if we want to prevent sexual assault, it is important that we start educating early; and

WHEREAS, this bill will ensure that discussions about healthy relationships and consent are taking place in high school, with young women and young men, it will teach boundaries of acceptable behavior; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley High School student, Liana Thomason, stated "My fellow seniors and I have received very little education around sexual harassment in high school. Soon, we will go to college, where lack of education means unsafe campuses and increased chances of sexual harassment and assault, SB 695, will allow high school students to become leaders in preventing sexual assault and sexual violence, and nothing is more critical if we want to change the climate of California high schools and colleges"; and

WHEREAS, consent education in high school health classes is extremely important because sexual violence doesn't start on college campuses and early education may prevent unsafe campuses and decrease sexual harassment and assault in the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it supports SB 695, Affirmative Consent, Education for High School Students – Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention Legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter of support of SB 695 will be sent to State Senator Loni Hancock and State Assemblymember Tony Thurmond.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2015–2016 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL**No. 695**

Introduced by Senators De León and JacksonFebruary 27, 2015

An act to add Section 51225.36 to the Education Code, relating to school curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 695, as introduced, De León. School curriculum: health education: sexual assault and violence instruction.

Existing law requires each pupil completing grade 12 to satisfy certain requirements as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school. These requirements include the completion of designated coursework in grades 9 to 12, inclusive. Existing law authorizes a governing board of a school district to adopt other coursework requirements.

This bill would require the governing board of a school district that has elected to require its pupils to complete a course in health education for graduation from high school to include instruction in sexual assault and violence, as specified.

DIGEST KEY

Vote: MAJORITY Appropriation: NO Fiscal Committee: NO Local Program: NO

BILL TEXT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

Section 51225.36 is added to the Education Code, to read:

51225.36.

If the governing board of a school district requires a course in health education for graduation from high school, the governing board of the school district shall include instruction in sexual assault and violence,

including, but not limited to, information on the affirmative consent standard, as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 67386.