



COUNCIL AGENDA: 06-12-07
ITEM: 3.7

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Lee Price, MMC
City Clerk 

SUBJECT: AB 1030 (CABALLERO) –
LIBRARIES: LITERACY AND
ENGLISH ACQUISITION SERVICES

DATE: 06-08-07

RECOMMENDATION

As recommended by the Rules and Open Government Committee on June 6, 2007, approve the support position for AB 1030 (Caballero) – Libraries: Literacy and English Acquisition Services as outlined in the attached memo previously submitted to and approved by the Rules and Open Government Committee.





Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

FROM: Jane Light

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: May 29, 2007

Approved

Date

5/30/07

COUNCIL DISTRICT: All
SNI: All

**SUBJECT: AB 1030 (CABALLERO)—LIBRARIES: LITERACY AND ENGLISH
ACQUISITION SERVICES**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City support AB 1030 and the associated request to augment the State Library's CEALS program budget by \$2 million dollars to support an initiative to provide adult basic literacy services to young adults age 16 and over who are not enrolled in school.

OUTCOME

If the Rules and Open Government Committee and the Mayor and City Council support staff's recommendation, the City lobbyist could begin seeking support for AB 1030 and the associated budget augmentation. Staff believes that AB 1030 could have a significant impact in state funding for literacy services in San José.

BACKGROUND

AB 1030 amends Section 18881 of the Education Code related to libraries and "expands the California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Services Program (CEALS) to include services targeting young adults 16 years of age and over who are not enrolled in school." The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that individuals with a low literacy level are at greater risk for criminal behavior and incarceration. The intent of AB1030 is to decrease gang activity and criminal behavior in this age group by increasing their literacy skills.

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The bill “also deletes a current requirement...that a public library... provide the same level of private and local fiscal support for the program as it did in a preceding year.” This will allow a program to continue to receive State funding even if budget reductions reduce local support.

For over 15 years, the Library Department has received partial support for its literacy services from the CEALS program.

ANALYSIS

A fact sheet and analysis on AB 1030 and the related budget augmentation request is attached.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criteria 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criteria 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

This legislative item does not meet any of the above criteria.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

POLICY ALIGNMENT

The attached fact sheet and analysis are consistent with the Council-adopted 2007 Legislative Guiding Principles.

CEQA

Not a project.



Jane Light
Director, Library Department

AB 1030 (Caballero)—Libraries: Literacy and English Acquisitions Services

What is the issue the bill and the requested budget augmentation are trying to resolve?

The following is an excerpt from a memo from Assemblymember Caballero:

“Research identifies illiteracy as perhaps the strongest common denominator among individuals in corrections (Kidder, 1990). While poor reading skills and poor academic performance are not direct causes of criminal activity, adolescents who have deficits in these areas are disproportionately represented in correctional institutions. The average reading level nationally for ninth grade youth in correctional facilities is fourth grade (Project Read; 1978).”

The bill is aimed at providing young adults age 16 and over who are not enrolled in school with adult basic literacy tutoring and related services as a means to reduce their involvement with gangs and criminal activity. The bill requires public libraries to work with other youth serving organizations in the community, recruit and train volunteers to provide tutoring and other literacy services for young adults, and seek community and local government awareness of and support for English literacy services.

The \$2 million dollar budget augmentation request associated with this bill would be specifically for the California Library and Literacy and English Acquisition Services (CEALS) program. Of this \$2 million dollars, \$1.9 million would be made available through a competitive grant process to library jurisdictions across the state. These funds would enable local public libraries to provide services for this at-risk population. The remainder of the funds would be used by the State Library to support the local library jurisdictions in this effort.

The bill “also deletes the current requirement...that a public library...provide the same level of private local fiscal support for the program as it did in a preceding year.” This is aimed at ensuring that libraries do not lose State funding for literacy programs because of local budget reductions.

How would passage of this bill and the requested budget augmentation affect San José?

The requested \$1.9 million dollar budget augmentation will be used specifically for competitive grants to libraries so they could provide adult basic literacy services for young adults age 16 and over who are not enrolled in school. The Library Department, which already receives partial support for its adult and family literacy program from the State Library, would compete for a portion of these additional funds to develop new services for these young adults in San José.

Additionally, the deletion of the local fiscal requirement would help ensure that the Library’s literacy programs receive State funding even if there were local budget reductions.

Staff's proposed position

Staff recommends that the City support AB 1030 and the associated request to augment the State Library's CEALS program budget by \$2 million dollars to support a statewide initiative to provide adult basic literacy services to young adults age 16 and over who are not enrolled in school.

Who are the bill's supporters and opponents?

Supporters: California State PTA, California Language Teachers Association, California Library Association

Opponents:

There are no identified opponents.

What is the current status of the measure?

On April 25, 2007 AB 1030 passed out of the Assembly Education Committee by a vote of 7-3. On May 9, 2007 the bill was heard in the Assembly Committee on appropriations and was placed in the suspense file.