SENATE BILL SB-48

Introduced by Senator Monique Limon (D-21)

An act relating to Local Opportunities for Civil Leadership Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-48, Monique Limon (D-21). Local Opportunities for Civil Leadership Act.

Youth civic engagement is fundamentally important to ensure California youth to be successful contributors to the future of and the state of California. This bill would establish the LOCAL Leaders Program, a statewide civic leadership program for public high school seniors interested in civic engagement and public service.

Under this bill, eligible California public high school seniors all across California will receive civic leadership placements in their local communities, under which five high school seniors from each of California's fifty-eight counties. Upon successful completion of this civic leadership placement program, this bill would establish a one-time scholarship of up to five thousand dollars to each student who satisfies specified eligibility requirements.

Vote: 2/3rds. **Appropriations/fiscal:** yes. **Local program:** yes.

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

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Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This act may be cited as the LOCAL Act.

Section 2. The Local Leaders Program is added under Title 2 Division 4 Part 28 Chapter 9 Article 7.1 of the Education Code

Section 3. Establishment of the LOCAL Leaders Program
a. The LOCAL Leaders Program is hereby established to provide eligible public high school seniors with opportunities to participate in civic leadership positions within their communities and local governments.
b. The program shall provide civic leadership placements for five public high school seniors in each of the state of California's 58 counties *and an additional two public high school seniors in with large metropolitan cities*, for a maximum of ~~290~~ *302* participating students annually.
c. A participating student shall serve in a civic leadership position during the students final year of high school.
d. Civic leadership positions may include, but are not limited to, positions assisting participating in local government with community outreach, civic engagement activities, constituent services, administrative functions, or other activities constituent with the purpose of the program.

Section 4. Definitions For the purpose of this program, the following definitions apply:

a. “Program” means the LOCAL Leaders Program established pursuant to this section
b. “Participating student” means a public high school senior who has been selected to participate the the program and meets the eligibility requirement established pursuant in this section
c. “Participating local government” means a county, city, or other local governmental entity that participates in the program and provides a civic leadership placement to a participating student.
d. “Public post secondary educational institution” means an accredited four-year public public institution of higher education located in California, including an institution within the University of California or California State University systems.
e. “Large metropolitan city” means a city in California with a population of 500,000 or more, as determined by the most recent decennial federal census.

Section 5. Student Selection and Placement
a. The county office of the Department of Education shall establish an application and selection process for students seeking to participate in the program.
b. To be eligible to participate in the program, a student shall meet all of the following requirements:
1. Be Enrolled as a senior at a California public high school at the time of participation
2. Reside in California
A. Reside in one of California's 58 counties
B. The only exemption to this requirement is if the student resides on a California Reservation.
3. Demonstrate an interest in civic leadership, public service, or community engagement.
c. The county office of the Department of Education shall coordinate with participating local governments to identify and establish available civic leadership placements.
d. Students shall, to the extent practicable, be placed in a civic leadership position within the county in which the student resides.
e. A student residing on a federally recognized Native American reservation or in an area where an appropriate civic leadership placement is unavailable may be assigned to a participating civic leadership position in the nearest participating county.
f. The county office of the Department of Education shall establish minimum requirements for the duties, supervision, and educational components of each civic leadership placement.
g. In addition to the five placements provided in each county pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 3, the county office of the Department of Education shall establish two additional civic leadership placements in each large metropolitan city located within that county. Students selected for these additional placements shall be placed, to the extent practicable, with the participating local government of that city, and shall meet all eligibility requirements of this section

Section 6. Program Completion
1. A participating student shall complete one full academic year of participation in the program during the student’s senior year of high school to be considered a program graduate

2. The county office of the Department of Education shall establish standards and procedures for determining whether a student has successfully completed the program.
3. A student who fails to complete the requirements established pursuant to this section shall not be eligible for the scholarship established pursuant to Section 7.

Section 7. LOCAL Leaders Scholarship
a. A student who successfully completes the LOCAL Leaders Program shall be eligible to receive a one-time scholarship of up to five thousand dollars ($5,000), subject to the requirements of this section.
b. To receive the scholarship, a student shall satisfy all of the following requirements:
1. Successfully complete the full one-year program during the student's senior year of high school.
2. Graduate from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent.
3. Be accepted for enrollment or enrolled in an accredited four-year public institution of higher education located in California.
4. Maintain eligibility for enrollment at the institution described in paragraph (3).
c. A scholarship awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed five thousand dollars ($5,000) per eligible student.
d. The scholarship may be used toward the student's cost of attendance at an eligible public postsecondary educational institution, including tuition, mandatory fees, books, supplies, housing, food, transportation, or other educational expenses authorized by the Department of Education.
e. A student shall not receive more than one scholarship pursuant to this section.
f. The county Department of Education shall establish procedures for verifying eligibility and distributing scholarship funds.

Section 8. Administration and Funding.
a. The county Department of Education shall administer the LOCAL Leaders Program and may employ or contract with personnel necessary to administer, coordinate, and oversee the program.
b. The county Department of education shall be responsible for all of the following:
1. Establishing and administering the student application and selection process.
2. Coordinating student placements with participating local governments.
3. Establishing program participation and completion requirements.
4. Administering and distributing scholarships.
5. Providing guidance and support to participating students and local governments.
6. Monitoring program participation and outcomes.
7. Establishing procedures necessary to implement this chapter.
c. For the 2026–27 fiscal year, the sum of six million dollars ($6,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Education for purposes of implementing and administering the program.

d. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to subdivision (c):
1. ~~One million four hundred fifty thousand dollars ($1,450,000)~~ *One million five hundred and ten thousand dollars ($1,510,000)* shall be available for scholarships awarded pursuant to Section 7
2. ~~Three million five hundred fifty thousand dollars ($3,550,000)~~ *Three million four hundred ninety thousand dollars ($3,490,000)* shall be available for the administration and operation of the program, including personnel, program coordination, student placement, oversight, outreach, and other administrative costs.
3. One million dollars ($1,000,000) shall be available for initial implementation costs incurred during the first fiscal year of the program.
e. Commencing the 2027-28 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, five million dollars ($5,000,000) shall be available for the continued administration and operation of this program. And the provision of scholarships pursuant to this chapter subject to appropriation by the legislature.
f. Funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall be used solely for purposes consistent with this program.