

Saturday, March 22, 2025

The Honorable Rob Bonta
Office of the Attorney General of California
ATTN: Initiative Coordinator
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Re: Request for Preparation of Title and Summary

Dear Attorney General Rob Bonta,

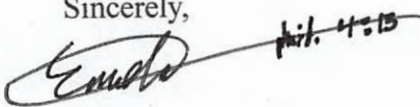
I kindly request that you promptly prepare a circulating title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed initiative measure known as the "Advancing Ethnic Studies Action Act of 2026."

It is my hope that the title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the "Advancing Ethnic Studies Action Act of 2026" are comprehensive and succinct to avoid confusion for voters who circle "Yes" or "No" on their ballot if this measure were to qualify on the ballot.

Provided within this submission are checks totaling a sum of \$2,000, a total required by state law, the legislative text of the measure, and the Elections Code declarations of legal compliance necessary for this process to continue. Provided in my letter signature is my most commonly referred to name and my best points of contact for notices and inquiries related to this matter.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to further participating in the democratic process.

Sincerely,



Emeka Ogbatue

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This initiative measure is submitted to the people in accordance with the provisions of Article II, Section 8, of the California Constitution.

This initiative measure amends and adds sections to the Education Code; therefore, existing provisions proposed to be deleted are printed in ~~strikeout~~ type and new provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic* type to indicate that they are new.

SEC. 1. Name.

This act shall be known as the “Advancing Ethnic Studies Action Act of 2026.”

SEC. 2. Findings and Purpose.

The People of California find and declare that:

- a) Ethnic studies programs have come about due to students of color demanding them. On November 6, 1968, a coalition of student groups at San Francisco State University demanded that the university institute an ethnic studies program.
- b) Ethnic studies is an interdisciplinary and comparative examination of race, ethnicity, and the experiences of historically marginalized communities, with a primary focus on four core groups: Indigenous peoples (including Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Indigenous peoples of U.S. territories), African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latino/a Americans. The field of ethnic studies also encompasses the histories, cultures, and contributions of additional communities, including but not limited to Pacific Islanders, Southwest Asian and North Africans (SWANA), Middle Eastern/North Africans (MENA), and other multiracial and multicultural groups.
- c) Studies have consistently found that both students of color and white students benefit academically and socially from taking ethnic studies courses.
- d) Ethnic studies courses play an important role in building an inclusive and multicultural democracy. In recognition of this, Assembly Bills 1460 and 101 enacted minimum ethnic studies education requirements in California’s upper education systems and high schools.
- e) Existing law only requires that a single three-unit ethnic studies course is completed in the California State University. The California State University currently allows the taken course to either be lower division — courses designed for first and second-year students, or upper division — courses that often have entry prerequisites, and at times, greater academic difficulty.
- f) A singular 3-unit course is only 2.5% of the 120 units requirement that most CSU undergraduates are expected to complete for graduation.

- g) The purpose of the “Advancing Ethnic Studies Action Act of 2026” (“the Act”) is to ensure that upper education institutions in California continue to provide a competent ethnic studies education for its current and incoming students in our diversifying, multiracial society.

SEC. 3. Section 89032 of the Education Code is amended to read:

89032. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that students at the California State University acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them comprehend the diversity and social justice history of the United States and of the society in which they live to enable them to contribute to that society as responsible and constructive citizens.

(b) Commencing with the 2021–22 academic year, the California State University shall provide for courses in ethnic studies at each of its campuses.

(c) The California State University shall collaborate with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic Senate of the California State University to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to implementation of this section. The council and the academic senate shall approve the core competencies before commencement of the 2021–22 academic year.

(d) Commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in ethnic studies. The university shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the university with a baccalaureate degree by the enforcement of this requirement. *This Until the commencement of 2030-31 academic year, this graduation requirement shall not apply to a postbaccalaureate student who is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at the university if the student has satisfied either of the following:*

(1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

(2) The student has completed an ethnic studies course at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

(e) The California State University shall collaborate with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic Senate of the California State University to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to implementation of this section. The council and the academic senate shall approve the core competencies before commencement of the 2030–31 academic year.

(f) Commencing with students graduating in the 2030–31 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, at a minimum, one lower

division ethnic studies course that is three units or higher and one upper division ethnic studies course that is three units or higher. The university shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the university with a baccalaureate degree by the enforcement of this requirement.

(g) For the purposes of this section, a “lower division course” means coursework typically intended for first-year and second-year undergraduate students, but is coursework that can also be taken by students of a different academic standing levels if permitted under California State University system policies. The California State University is authorized to establish specific criteria and classifications for lower division courses, including but not limited to course content, unit values, and the required level of academic preparation.

(h) For the purposes of this section, an “upper division course” means coursework typically intended for third-year and fourth-year undergraduate students, but is coursework that can also be taken by students of a different academic standing levels if permitted under California State University system policies. The California State University is authorized to establish specific criteria and classifications for upper division courses, including but not limited to course content, unit values, and the required level of academic preparation.

(i) Commencing with postbaccalaureate students graduating in the 2030–31 academic year, the California State University shall require, as a graduation requirement, the completion of, at a minimum, one ethnic studies course that is three units or higher. The university shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the university with a postbaccalaureate degree by the enforcement of this requirement.

(j) Upon the commencement of 2030-31 academic year, this graduation requirement shall not apply to a postbaccalaureate student who is enrolled in a postbaccalaureate degree program at the university if the student has satisfied either of the following:

- (1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency, with 2 ethnic studies classes completed within their baccalaureate coursework.*
- (2) The student has completed 2 ethnic studies courses at a postsecondary educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency.*

(k) The California State University shall collaborate with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic Senate of the California State University to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to implementation of this section. The council and the academic senate shall approve the core competencies before commencement of the 2030–31 academic year.

SEC. 4. Amendment.

- a) Pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 10 of Article II of the California Constitution, this Act may be amended by a subsequent measure submitted to a vote of the people at a statewide election.
- b) This Act may also be amended by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature solely for the purpose of increasing the number of required ethnic studies courses or their frequency. However, the Legislature cannot, whether by majority vote or a higher threshold, alter, remove, or mandate specific instructional materials, course objectives, themes, or selected readings within the curriculum. Additionally, no amendment from the Legislature may eliminate, suspend, reduce, or repeal the ethnic studies requirements of this Act in whole or in part, and funding allocations shall be maintained at levels necessary to meet the implementation requirements of this Act, ensuring that financial support remains consistent with legal obligations.
- c) No amendment from the Legislature, whether by majority vote or a higher threshold, may transfer regulatory, oversight, or curricular authority of this Act, its implementation, or its requirements to any state agency, commission, or other nonlegislative entity. If compliance with anti-discrimination laws or other legal mandates is required due to enforcement actions or court rulings, the Legislature and any other legal enforcement body still shall not directly dictate or manipulate curricular decisions, course materials, or instructional methods, and the California State University would be solely responsible for making legally necessary modifications while maintaining academic integrity and faculty governance.
- d) In general, including scenarios where legal intervention is necessary, per Sec. 4. Amendment, paragraph (c), control over curricular development and implementation as it relates to this Act, is actively, and shall remain, with the California State University system and its educational partners. This Act shall not be misconstrued as authorizing, endorsing, or facilitating the privatization of public education curricula, or access to education, nor shall it be misconstrued to limit the California State University's ability to establish any additional and necessary faculty committees, advisory groups, oversight, or commissions to assist them in legally complying with this Act and following through with its intent.

SEC. 5. Severability.

It is the intent of the People that the provisions of this Act are severable and that if any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.