Senate Bill No. 1404

CHAPTER 764

An act to amend, repeal, and add Section 38134 of the Education Code, relating to school property.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2012. Filed with Secretary of State September 29, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1404, Hancock. School property: Civic Center Act.

Existing law, known as the Civic Center Act, authorizes a school district governing board to grant the use of school facilities or grounds as a civic center, for specified purposes, upon terms and conditions deemed proper by the governing board. Existing law authorizes a school district governing board to charge a fee, not to exceed the school district's direct costs, as defined, for use of the school facilities or grounds by entities that promote youth and school activities or that arrange for and supervise sports league activities for youths.

This bill, until January 1, 2020, would expand the definition of direct costs that a school district governing board may charge an entity for the use of school facilities or grounds to include a specified share of the operating and maintenance costs proportional to the entity's use of the school facilities or grounds under this provision and a share of the costs for maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment of the school facilities or grounds proportional to that entity's use of school facilities or grounds, as specified. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop, and the State Board of Education to adopt, regulations to be used by a school district in determining the proportionate share and the specific allowable costs that a school district may include as direct costs for the use of its school facilities or grounds. The bill would make other related changes.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

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

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) In order to promote the Civic Center Act, it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage all school districts to maximize opportunities to make available and accessible public school facilities and grounds to their communities as civic centers.

(2) School districts make valuable contributions to their communities by providing needed space for recreational activities and are obligated to protect and preserve public school facilities and grounds for the safety and enjoyment of the pupils and community members who use the school facilities or grounds.

(3) School districts provide access to school facilities and grounds to organizations that promote physical activity, before and after school care, recreation, tutoring, and other activities that benefit the residents of those communities.

(4) The ability of school districts to maintain their facilities and grounds has been jeopardized due to severe budget cuts in recent years and the current economic climate in which school districts now operate.

(5) The costs directly incurred by a school district to maintain its facilities or grounds exceeds the operational costs associated with supplies, utilities, janitorial services, and services of school district employees that are necessitated by an organization's use of the school facilities or grounds.

(6) The "direct cost" to maintain school facilities and grounds also includes ongoing costs related to maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment of the school facilities or grounds.

(b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to amend the Civic Center Act to authorize a school district to charge an organization using school facilities or grounds an amount proportional to the organization's use of the school facilities or grounds to maintain, repair, restore, and refurbish the school facilities or grounds and to limit the proportional costs related to maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment to only a school's nonclassroom space and grounds.

SEC. 2. Section 38134 of the Education Code is amended to read:

38134. (a) (1) The governing board of a school district shall authorize the use of school facilities or grounds under its control by a nonprofit organization, or by a club or an association organized to promote youth and school activities, including, but not necessarily limited to, any of the following:

(A) The Girl Scouts; the Boy Scouts; Camp Fire USA; or the YMCA.

(B) A parent-teacher association.

(C) A school-community advisory council.

(2) This subdivision does not apply to a group that uses school facilities or grounds for fundraising activities that are not beneficial to youth or public school activities of the school district, as determined by the governing board.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, a governing board may charge an amount not to exceed its direct costs for use of its school facilities or grounds. A governing board that levies these charges shall first adopt a policy specifying which activities shall be charged an amount not to exceed direct costs.

(c) The governing board of a school district may charge an amount, not to exceed its direct costs for use of its school facilities or grounds by the entity using the school facilities or grounds, including a religious organization or church, that arranges for and supervises sports league activities for youths as described in paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 38131.

(d) The governing board of a school district that authorizes the use of school facilities or grounds for the purpose specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 38131 shall charge the church or religious organization an amount at least equal to the school district's direct costs.

(e) In the case of an entertainment or a meeting where an admission fee is charged or contributions are solicited, and the net receipts are not expended for the welfare of the pupils of the school district or for charitable purposes, a charge equal to fair rental value shall be levied for the use of the school facilities or grounds.

(f) If the use of school facilities or grounds under this section results in the destruction of school property, the entity using the school facilities or grounds may be charged for an amount necessary to repay the damages, and further use of the facilities or grounds by that entity may be denied.

(g) As used in this section:

(1) "Direct costs" to the school district for the use of school facilities or grounds includes all of the following:

(A) The share of the costs of supplies, utilities, janitorial services, services of school district employees, and salaries paid to school district employees directly associated with the administration of this section to operate and maintain school facilities or grounds that is proportional to the entity's use of the school facilities or grounds under this section.

(B) The share of the costs for maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment, proportional to the use of the school facilities or grounds by the entity using the school facilities or grounds under this section as follows:

(i) For purposes of this subparagraph, "school facilities" shall be limited to only nonclassroom space and "school grounds" shall include, but not be limited to, playing fields, athletic fields, track and field venues, tennis courts, and outdoor basketball courts.

(ii) The share of the cost for maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment shall not apply to:

(I) Classroom-based programs that operate after school hours, including, but not limited to, after school programs, tutoring programs, or child care programs.

(II) Organizations retained by the school or school district to provide instruction or instructional activities to pupils during school hours.

(iii) Funds collected under this subparagraph shall be deposited into a special fund that shall only be used for purposes of this section.

(2) "Fair rental value" means the direct costs to the school district plus the amortized costs of the school facilities or grounds used for the duration of the activity authorized.

(h) By December 31, 2013, the Superintendent shall develop, and the state board shall adopt, regulations to be used by a school district in determining the proportionate share and the specific allowable costs that a school district may include as direct costs for the use of its school facilities or grounds.

(i) (1) A school district authorizing the use of school facilities or grounds under subdivision (a) is liable for an injury resulting from the negligence of the school district in the ownership and maintenance of the school facilities or grounds. An entity using school facilities or grounds under this section is liable for an injury resulting from the negligence of that entity during the use of the school facilities or grounds. The school district and the entity using the school facilities or grounds under this section shall each bear the cost of insuring against its respective risks, and shall each bear the costs of defending itself against claims arising from those risks.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, this subdivision shall not be waived. This subdivision does not limit or affect the immunity or liability of a school district under Division 3.6 (commencing with Section 810) of Title 1 of the Government Code, for injuries caused by a dangerous condition of public property.

(j) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2020, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2020, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 3. Section 38134 is added to the Education Code, to read:

38134. (a) (1) The governing board of a school district shall authorize the use of school facilities or grounds under its control by a nonprofit organization, or by a club or an association organized to promote youth and school activities, including, but not necessarily limited to, any of the following:

(A) The Girl Scouts; the Boy Scouts; Camp Fire USA; or the YMCA.

(B) A parent-teacher association.

(C) A school-community advisory council.

(2) This subdivision does not apply to a group that uses school facilities or grounds for fundraising activities that are not beneficial to youth or public school activities of the school district, as determined by the governing board.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, a governing board may charge an amount not to exceed its direct costs for use of its school facilities or grounds. A governing board that levies these charges shall first adopt a policy specifying which activities shall be charged an amount not to exceed direct costs.

(c) The governing board of a school district may charge an amount, not to exceed its direct costs for use of its school facilities or grounds by the entity using the school facilities or grounds, including a religious organization or church, that arranges for and supervises sports league activities for youths as described in paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 38131.

(d) The governing board of a school district that authorizes the use of school facilities or grounds for the purpose specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 38131 shall charge the church or religious organization an amount at least equal to the school district's direct costs.

(e) In the case of an entertainment or a meeting where an admission fee is charged or contributions are solicited, and the net receipts are not expended for the welfare of the pupils of the school district or for charitable purposes, a charge equal to fair rental value shall be levied for the use of the school facilities or grounds.

(f) If the use of school facilities or grounds under this section results in the destruction of school property, the entity using the school facilities or grounds may be charged for an amount necessary to repay the damages, and

further use of facilities or grounds by that entity may be denied.

(g) As used in this section:

(1) “Direct costs” to the school district for the use of school facilities or grounds means the costs of supplies, utilities, janitorial services, services of school district employees, and salaries paid to school district employees directly associated with the administration of this section necessitated by the entity’s use of the school facilities or grounds.

(2) “Fair rental value” means the direct costs to the school district plus the amortized costs of the school facilities or grounds used for the duration of the activity authorized.

(h) (1) A school district authorizing the use of school facilities or grounds under subdivision (a) is liable for an injury resulting from the negligence of the school district in the ownership and maintenance of the school facilities or grounds. An entity using school facilities or grounds under this section is liable for an injury resulting from the negligence of that entity during the use of the school facilities or grounds. The school district and the entity using the school facilities or grounds under this section shall each bear the cost of insuring against its respective risks and shall each bear the costs of defending itself against claims arising from those risks.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, this subdivision shall not be waived. This subdivision does not limit or affect the immunity or liability of a school district under Division 3.6 (commencing with Section 810) of Title 1 of the Government Code, for an injury caused by a dangerous condition of public property.

(i) This section is operative on and after January 1, 2020.