



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

October 23, 2013

OVERVIEW

The State Legislature adjourned for 2013 on September 13, 2013, and will reconvene on January 6, 2014, for the start of the second year of the two-year session. The Governor completed his actions to sign or veto legislation on October 13, 2013. Below is a final status update for our Bills of Interest for 2013.

Please also find the attached legislative matrix, which is in priority order. Brief summaries are provided below for selected measures in our top level, Tier 1. For details and copies of any bill, please contact the Governmental Relations division of the Chancellor's Office or visit the Legislative Counsel's website at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- **SB 195 (Liu) California Postsecondary Education: State Goals.** SB 195 states the intent of the Legislature to set three goals for higher education for budget and policy decisions. The goals are: 1) to improve student access and success; 2) to better align degrees and credentials with the state's needs; and 3) to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources. Metrics shall be developed from publicly available sources in order to monitor progress towards the goals.
 - **Status:** SB 195 was **signed by the Governor**.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- **AB 484 (Bonilla) Pupil Assessments: California Measurement of Academic Performance and Progress for the 21st Century.** AB 484 replaces portions of the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program with the Measurement of Academic Performance and Progress as the state transitions to the new Common Core Standards. Although its provisions allow for the suspension of assessments for one year, the Early Assessment Program, which measures student readiness for college in the 11th grade, will still be available to districts.
 - **Status:** AB 484 was **signed by the Governor**.
- **AB 955 (Williams) Community College Intersession Programs.** AB 955 authorizes a pilot project for selected community college districts to offer an extension program for credit courses during summer and winter intersessions under certain requirements. These requirements include:
 - Requiring the Chancellor to review pilot programs, monitor compliance with the requirements of the bill's provisions, and has the authority to rescind a campuses' participation in the pilot program if the Chancellor determines non-compliance with the bill's provisions.

- The bill also authorizes extension program fees sufficient to cover the administrative costs incurred by the Chancellor's Office for providing oversight of the pilot program.
- For the two immediately prior academic years, a district must have served student enrollment equal to or greater than its funding limit.
- The program must be self-supporting and subject to collective bargaining agreements.
- Enrollment must be open to the public and only courses leading to certificates, degrees, or transfer preparation shall be offered.
- Extension courses cannot supplant state-funded courses; compliance of which must be certified annually by board action.
- Adds additional conditions for eligibility to participate in the pilot program and reporting requirements.

AB 955 also authorizes the local board to charge extension fees sufficient to cover costs based on the district's nonresident fee rate. AB 955 requires districts to encourage participation and support for Board of Governors fee waivers, and requires that one-third of the revenue collected from extension course fees will be used to provide financial assistance to students eligible for BOG fee waivers.

- **Position:** Oppose
- **Status:** AB 955 was **signed by the Governor.**

- **SB 440 (Padilla) Public Postsecondary Education Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act.** Senate Bill 440 expands the STAR Act of 2010 and sets implementation timelines to establish Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) and TMC-aligned associate degrees for transfer. A key provision of the bill requires, prior to the 2015-16 academic year, California Community Colleges (CCC) to create associate degrees for transfer in every major that has an approved TMC. Additionally, the bill specifies that an associate degree for transfer is required to meet the criteria of an approved TMC. Timelines included in the bill require a community college to create an associate degree for transfer in every major and area of emphasis offered by that college for any established TMC approved subsequent to the 2013-14 academic year, and within 18 months of the approval of the TMC. The CCC are required to develop at least two TMCs in areas of emphasis prior to the 2015-16 academic year, and at least two more TMCs in areas of emphasis prior to the 2016-17 academic year.

The bill requires the California State University (CSU) to guarantee admission with junior status to a community college student who completed an associate degree for transfer with admission to a program or major or concentration that is similar to the student's community college degree, or completed 60 semester units of study beyond the TMC-aligned associate degree for transfer with completion ability determined by the CSU campus to which the student is admitted. The bill includes a section on outreach and marketing, and requires the CCC and the CSU in consultation with key stakeholders to develop a communication and marketing strategy to increase the visibility of the associate degree for transfer pathway that includes:

- Outreach to high school students and first-year CCC students developing an educational plan.
- Information about the pathway prominently displayed at CCC counseling and transfer centers, and targeted outreach to first-year students through campus

orientations and existing student support services programs that may include, but not be limited to, First Generation Experience, MESA, and Puente.

- Information about the pathway prominently displayed in CCC course catalogs and on the websites of CCC and CSU, and the CaliforniaColleges.edu websites.
- **Status:** SB 440 was **signed by the Governor**.
- **SB 490 (Jackson) Early Assessment Program: Common Core Academic Content Standards.** SB 490 encourages community colleges that participate in the Early Assessment Program to consult with the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges to work toward sequencing their pre-collegiate and transfer level courses in English and math to the common core academic content standards. SB 490 is double joined with AB 484.
 - **Status:** SB 490 was **signed by the Governor**.

FACILITIES, BONDS, LOCAL OPERATIONS

- **AB 182 (Buchanan) Bonds: School Districts and Community College Districts.** AB 182 places a 25 year limit on the length of a capital appreciation bond issued by school districts and community colleges, and requires local entities to limit the ratio of total debt service to principal for each bond series to 4:1. The bill would require each capital appreciation bond maturing more than 10 years after its date of issuance to be subject to mandatory tender for purchase or redemption before its fixed maturity date, as specified, beginning no later than the 10th anniversary of the date the capital appreciation bond was issued. AB 182 requires that, if the sale includes capital appreciation bonds on the agenda for approval by the local board, then the governing board of the school district or community college district must be presented with an analysis containing the overall cost of the capital appreciation bonds, a comparison to the overall cost of current interest bonds, the reason capital appreciation bonds are being recommended, and a copy of a certain disclosure made by the underwriter. Recent amendments authorize a school district or community college district that issued a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) prior to December 31, 2013, to seek from the State Board of Education or the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, as applicable, a one-time waiver from specified requirements.
 - **Status:** AB 182 was **signed by the Governor**.

FINANCE AND FUNDING

- **SB 284 (De León) Income Taxes: Credits: Contributions to Education Funds.** SB 284 creates a new tax credit and special fund in the State Treasury called the College Access Tax Credit (CATC) Fund. The CATC Fund allows taxpayers to receive an income or franchise tax credit for a percentage of cash contributions made to the Fund for the purpose of increasing Cal Grant B Entitlement Access awards. In a separate measure, SB 285 (De León), the author proposed to increase the maximum award in the Cal Grant B Entitlement Access Program from \$1,551 to \$5,000 annually.
 - **Status:** SB 284 was **vetoed by the Governor**.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **SB 576 (Block) Teacher Credentialing: Commission on Teacher Credentialing.** SB 576 amends statute to require the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to appoint an ex officio member to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing instead of the California Postsecondary Education Commission.
 - **Position:** Sponsor/Support
 - **Status:** SB 576 was **signed by the Governor.**

STUDENTS

- **AB 595 (Gomez) Community Colleges Priority Enrollment.** AB 595 provides priority enrollment to disabled students and students in the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services program. Recent amendments place a sunset date of January 1, 2017 on the priority enrollment, and require students to comply with the requirements of SB 1456 (Lowenthal) the Student Success Act of 2012.
 - **Status:** AB 595 was **signed by the Governor.**
- **AB 1358 (Fong) Student Body Association: Student Representation Fee.** AB 1358 amends statute authorizing a student representation fee of \$1 per semester, increasing it to \$2, and requires 1/2 of the student representation fee to be spent to establish and support the operations of an independent statewide community college student organization, recognized by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.
 - **Status:** AB 1358 was **signed by the Governor.**

TUITION, FEES, FINANCIAL AID

- **AB 1287 (Quirk-Silva) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program.** AB 1287 eliminates Cal Grant asset and income requirements for renewal applicants. The bill also clarifies that recipients disqualified from the Cal Grant program due to household income changes shall be eligible to re-apply for a Cal Grant under the same award status, Entitlement or Competitive, as was granted at the time initial eligibility was established for the program. Prior to 2011 Cal Grant recipients were only required to meet income and asset eligibility criteria as first-time applicants, and were not required to meet these criteria for renewal purposes. In addition, prior to 2011 students were only required to meet the income and asset criteria.
 - **Position:** Support
 - **Status:** AB 1287 was **vetoed by the Governor.**

- **SB 141 (Correa) College Education Benefits: Children of Deported Parents.** SB 141 exempts a student from nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges and the California State University if certain requirements are met.
 - The parent was deported.
 - The student was forced to move and currently lives abroad as a result of the parental deportation.
 - The student is a United States citizen.
 - The student was a California resident immediately prior to moving abroad.
 - **Position:** Support
 - **Status:** SB 141 was **signed by the Governor.**

- **SB 150 (Lara) Concurrent Enrollment.** SB 150 authorizes a community college district to exempt a pupil attending a community college as a special part-time student from paying nonresident tuition at the community college. Currently, these students would not be eligible for in-state tuition because they have yet to graduate from a California high school. With the exception of graduation from a California high school, these students meet all other requirements contained in AB 540. This bill is sponsored by the Los Angeles Community College District.
 - **Status:** SB 150 was **signed by the Governor.**

- **SB 285 (De León) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program.** This bill provides for the use of funds from the College Access Tax Credit (CATC) Fund to be established if SB 284 by Senator de Leon is enacted to create the CATC. The purpose of creating the CATC Fund is to increase the amount of the Cal Grant B Access Award up to a maximum of \$5000 per award per academic year. The Cal Grant B Entitlement Program provides awards for access costs, defined as living expenses and expenses for transportation, supplies, and books, in an amount not to exceed \$1,551.
 - **Status:** SB 285 was **vetoed by the Governor.**

- **SB 595 (Calderon) Postsecondary Education: Financial Aid.** SB 595 prohibits any California Community College or California State University, and requests the University of California from entering into contracts with any entity that require students to open an account as a condition of receiving financial aid disbursement. The bill also requires each campus of the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and requests the University of California to call for each of their campuses to offer students the option of receiving checks or direct deposits of financial aid disbursements according to similar timeframes for financial aid disbursements offered by banks or financial institutions in partnership with campuses.
 - **Status:** SB 595 was **signed by the Governor.**

VETERANS

- **AB 13 (Chávez) Nonresident Tuition Exemption: Veterans.** This bill was originally drafted to eliminate the requirement that a student veteran must be stationed in California to receive the nonresident tuition exemption. The intent of the bill is to assist student veterans regardless of their current state of residency or where they were last stationed. AB 13 passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee with amendments making the bill nearly

identical to SB 290. Assemblymember Chavez subsequently amended the bill to provide authority to colleges to waive nonresident fees, and he will take up the measure in 2014.

- **Position:** Support
 - **Status:** AB 13 will be taken up in 2014.
- **SB 290 (Knight) Nonresident Tuition Exemption: Veterans.** This bill would exempt all students who were members of the Armed Forces discharged within the immediately prior 2 years from paying nonresident tuition for one year, except former members of the Armed Forces who received a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge. The student must file an affidavit stating it is their intent to establish residency in California. The current version of SB 290 does not provide additional benefits to veterans attending community colleges. SB 290 provides the same benefit to veterans attending California State University campuses as provided by last year's AB 2478 (Hayashi) that only affected veterans attending community colleges.
 - **Position:** Support
 - **Status:** SB 290 was **signed by the Governor.**

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