

The League Applauds Governor Brown's Signing of Key Community College Legislation

October 1, 2014

After two years of legislative session, in which nearly 5,000 bills were introduced, the fate of more than 800 of those bills was determined by Governor Jerry Brown in the last few weeks of September. The League tracked and engaged almost 150 of the bills in the second year of the legislative session.

Beyond the changes of the recently enacted bills, the 2013-15 session had many important implications for community colleges. During this session particular attention was placed on new funding formulas, outcomes and goals, restructuring noncredit/adult education, equity, accreditation, and increasing baccalaureate degree offerings, among others. While the changes ahead are numerous, the opportunities are far greater for colleges to increase success and reduce longstanding achievement gaps.

The League Government Relations team would like to thank community college supporters for their strong commitment to advocacy as evidenced by the overwhelming number of letters, faxes, and visits to legislators.

During the Governor's signing period, which ended September 30, the following action was taken on these priority bills:

AB 13 Conway - Veterans Nonresident Tuition Exemption: This bill conforms with new federal regulations requiring public colleges to provide in-state tuition to veterans and eligible dependents in order for the school to remain eligible to receive G.I. Bill education payments. **Governor's Action: Signed**

AB 1550 (Rendon) - School Employees: Collective Bargaining: This bill would have increased the amount of time the Public Employee Relations Board has to appoint a mediator from 5 to 10 days during a labor dispute and prevent a college from implementing its last, best and final offer until that offer has been in writing for 30 days. **Governor's Action: Vetoed**

SB 173 (Liu) - Adult Education Funding: This bill requires greater collaboration between the Chancellor's Office and the California Department of Education (CDE) for the purposes of accountability in adult education. SB 173 requires the Chancellor's Office and the CDE to issue assessment policy guidelines to be used by school districts and community college districts for purposes of placement in adult education; authorizes fee policy guidelines for the adult education consortium program; and requires a report on the number and types of courses being taught and the number of students served with related funding. **Governor's Action: Signed**

SB 174 & SB 798 (De Leon) - Cal Grant Program & Income Tax Contributions to Education Funds: SB 798 permits Californians to donate funds to increase the access portion of

Cal Grant B. In return, they would receive both federal and state income tax credits. As a companion, SB 174 expends the funds raised by SB 798 by increasing the access portion of the Cal Grant B award. To the extent money is available, it would appropriate an amount between \$1,943 and \$5,000. **Governor's Action: Signed**

SB 850 (Block) - Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program: This bill authorizes the Chancellor's Office to establish a baccalaureate degree pilot program. Specifically, the bill: 1) excludes degrees already offered by UC and CSU; 2) limits participation in the pilot program to 15 campuses from 15 different districts; 3) authorize the pilot for 8 years beginning January 1, 2015, and sunsets on July 1, 2023; 4) prohibit fees for lower division coursework in a BA program from exceeding fees for other lower division coursework; and 5) would require the Board of Governors to develop a funding model by March 2015. **Governor's Action: Signed**

SB 967 (de Leon) – Student Safety: Sexual Assault: Among other things, this bill requires colleges to adopt an affirmative consent standard to its sexual violence or harassment policies. It also requires colleges to adopt victim-centered policies that protects the confidentiality of the victim and providing them with support services they may need. **Governor Action: Signed**

SB 1391 (Hancock) - Inmate Education Programs, Apportionment Computation: This bill requires the open course provisions in statute for community college classes to be waived for any governing board of a community college district that provides those classes for inmates, including inmates of state correctional facilities. It also authorizes the local board to receive apportionment for these students and requires an interagency agreement to expand community college courses for inmates that do not duplicate or supplant any adult education course opportunities. **Governor's Action: Signed**

[Click here for more information on bills tracked by the League.](#)

If you have any questions about legislation, please do not hesitate to contact the League's Government Relations team:

- *Ryan McElhinney, Legislative Advocate, ryan@ccleague.org*
- *Lizette Navarette, Legislative Advocate, lizette@ccleague.org*
- *Rita Mize, Director of State Policy & Research, rmize@ccleague.org*

Thank you,
Thelma Scott-Skillman
League Consultant
Community College League of California
2017 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95811
916.245.5032 • tscott-skillman@ccleague.org