

***The* COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE**

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Volume 39

For Publication Date: April 05, 2019

No. 7

Top Legislative Issues for 2019—April 5, 2019

Nearly fifty bills have been heard in the Assembly Higher Education and Senate Education committees over the past two weeks with almost forty measures slated to be heard in the two education committees in the coming week.

Bills that have fiscal implications face an April 26, 2019, deadline to make it out of the first house policy committee, while bills without fiscal effects have until May 3, 2019, to pass out of policy committee. The Legislature will begin its Spring Recess upon adjournment on April 11, 2019, meaning that when they return on April 22, 2019, policy committees will have less than a week to pass fiscal bills out of committee.

To jump to certain topics, click on any of the appropriate links below:

- [Access](#)
- [Employees](#)
- [Facilities](#)
- [Health/Safety](#)
- [Tuition and Fees](#)
- [Miscellaneous](#)

Access

Assembly Bill (AB) 1527 (Burke, D-Inglewood)—Postsecondary Education: Associate Degrees for Transfer. This bill would require the California Department of Education (CDE) to collaborate with the California Community Colleges and California State University to examine the feasibility of integrating academic pathways and degrees into the associate degree for transfer program that would require the attainment of more than 120 semester units for a student to progress to a baccalaureate degree. The bill would also require the CDE to request the Regents of the University of California to participate in this examination.

Employees

AB 1427 (Carrillo D, Los Angeles)—Community Colleges: Full-Time Faculty. Existing law requires a community college district that has less than 75% of its hours of credit instruction taught by full-time instructors to apply a portion of specified state funding to increase the percentage of its hours of credit instruction taught by full-time instructors, as provided. Existing law requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to adopt regulations that establish minimum standards regarding the percentage of hours of credit instruction taught by full-time instructors.

This bill would instead require the BOG to adopt regulations that establish minimum standards regarding the percentage of hours of credit and noncredit instruction taught by full-time instructors.

Facilities

Senate Bill (SB) 297 (Pan, D-Sacramento)—School Facilities: Approval of Plans. This bill allows school and community college districts to award construction contracts, but not perform any construction, prior to receiving plan approval from the State Architect.

SSC Comment: This bill recently passed unanimously out of the Senate Education Committee on a 7-0 vote, and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 8, 2019, where its fiscal implications will be scrutinized.

Health/Safety

AB 302 (Berman, D-Lao Alto)—Parking: Homeless Students. This bill would require a community college campus that has parking facilities on campus to grant overnight access to those facilities, on or before July 1, 2020, to any homeless student who is enrolled in coursework, has paid any enrollment fees that have not been waived, and is in good standing with the community college. The bill would also require the governing board of the community college district to determine a plan of action to implement this requirement.

SSC Comment: This bill passed out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee on a 10-0 vote on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, and will now go to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Several organizations and a handful of committee members expressed concerns about the mandate that the bill would set as well as the liability and cost implications of the measure.

AB 381 (Reyes, D-San Bernardino)—Postsecondary Education: Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence Prevention Training: Intimate Partner and Dating Violence. This bill would add domestic violence centers to the existing on-campus and community-based organizations with which governing boards should enter into memoranda of understanding, agreements, or collaborative partnerships, to the extent feasible. This bill would provide that the outreach programming required by this provision would include informing students about specified topics relating to intimate partner and dating violence, and would specify that incoming graduate, international, and transfer students be included in the definition of incoming students for the purposes of who is provided outreach programming.

AB 1689 (McCarty, D-Sacramento)—College Mental Health Services Program. This bill would amend Proposition 63 by appropriating \$20 million annually from the administrative account of the Mental Health Services Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of California, the Board of Trustees of the California State University, and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to implement the College Mental Health Services Program. The bill would require the governing bodies to create a grant program for the purpose of establishing or improving access to mental health services on those campuses.

Tuition and Fees

AB 1504 (Medina, D-Riverside)—Community Colleges: Student Representation Fee: Statewide Community College Student Organization: Goals. This bill would require (current law is permissive), if a student body association has been established, the officials at a community college to collect a student representation fee of \$2 at the time of registration, and would eliminate the authorization for a student election to terminate the fee. This bill would require that \$1 of the \$2 fee be expended to establish and support the

operation of a statewide community college organization for all student representation fees collected, rather than only for those fees adopted on or after January 1, 2014.

Miscellaneous

AB 1466 (Irwin, D-Thousand Oaks)—State Longitudinal Education Data System. This bill would require the Governor to convene a task force on the establishment of a statewide student longitudinal database, with specified representatives from various segments of the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education systems and from the state agencies relating to the workforce. The bill would authorize the task force to establish working groups that include outside stakeholders to address topics as determined by the task force. The bill would require the task force to initially meet on or before July 1, 2020, and would specify objectives for the task force to meet within time frames set forth in the bill, including developing a plan for a scope of work and preparing a report with recommendations by the task force of an implementation plan for the structure of, governance of, access to, and metrics included in, a database system. This bill would require the task force to submit the report to the Legislature and the Governor on or before July 1, 2022.

SSC Comment: Governor Gavin Newsom has included \$10 million in his 2019-20 State Budget proposal to plan for and develop a longitudinal intersegmental student data system. Additionally, SB 2 (Glazer, D-Orinda) would express the intent of the Legislature to establish the Statewide Longitudinal Student Database to collect and store data regarding individual students as they matriculate from preschool through college, and into the workforce.

SB 3 (Allen, D-Santa Monica)—Office of Higher Education Coordination, Accountability, and Performance. This bill would establish the Office of Higher Education Coordination, Accountability, and Performance. The office would be administered by a five member board with three members appointed by the Governor (subject to confirmation by the Senate), one member appointed by the Senate Rules Committee, and one member appointed by the Assembly Speaker. The bill would also require the governing board to establish an advisory body, comprising 11 members to provide recommendations to the governing board on issues before the governing board. The bill would give the office specified functions and responsibilities for purposes of statewide postsecondary education planning, oversight, data collection, and coordination including:

- Advise on the need and optimal locations for a new segment of public postsecondary education
- Review legislative and budget proposals from the public postsecondary segments and make recommendations regarding these proposals
- Provide independent oversight on the public postsecondary segments and individual campus-based programs and initiatives and cross-segmental and interagency programs and initiatives

The bill would require the public postsecondary segments and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to submit specified data to the office so it may carry out its functions and responsibilities.

SSC Comment: This bill recently passed unanimously out of the Senate Education Committee on a 7-0 vote on April 3, 2019. Assembly Member Low (D-Silicon Valley) has introduced a similar bill on the Assembly side, AB 130, which would establish the Higher Education Performance and Accountability Commission.

2019 Legislative Calendar—Upcoming Holidays and Deadlines

April 11—Spring Recess begins upon adjournment

April 22—Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess

April 26—Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house