

Government Relations Update

February 6, 2015

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Deadlines

Jan. 30 was the deadline for legislators to submit ideas to Legislative Counsel, who then craft the bill language for introduction.

Feb. 26 is the deadline for legislators to introduce bills

Bills of Interest – California Legislature

AB151 (Rodriguez) Income Taxes: Credits: Apprenticeships

This bill initially is viewed as potentially beneficial to community colleges. The thinking that if employers are given tax credits (\$2,000 per) for hiring apprentices, then the demand for apprentices would increase, which in turn could mean a demand for classes. If approved, the tax credits would begin in 2017.

AB176 (Bonta) Data Collection

This bill would require the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, the Trustees of the California State University, the Regents of the University of California, and each campus of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California, whenever they collect demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of students, to use specified collection categories and tabulations for each major Asian group and each major Pacific Island group, as specified, and to include that data using those categories in every demographic report on ancestry or ethnic origins of students.

AB200 (Alejo) Student Financial Aid Competitive Cal Grant Awards

This bill would increase the total of Competitive Cal Grant and B awards granted annually to 100,000. Existing law limits awards to 25,000 per year. This bill would instead require that an unspecified total number of Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards be granted for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years and that 100,000 be granted for the 2018-19 academic year and each academic year thereafter.

AB206 (Stone) Student Financial Aid: DREAM Work-Study Program

This bill would allocate an additional \$15M for work study and only applies to CSU and UC students as currently written. The authors would consider adding community colleges to the mix—as a pilot program—if there is enough demand from “impacted” campuses, those determined to have a large population of AB540 students.