



January 16, 2018

OVERVIEW

On January 3, 2018, the Legislature reconvened for the second half of the 2017-18 Legislative Session. Of more than 200 legislative measures introduced thus far, nearly two dozen affect higher education and the California Community Colleges (CCC). Members have until the February 16, 2018, deadline for bill introduction. Another key date is the January 19, 2018 deadline for each house to pass two-year bills, which are active bills pending from 2017. Currently, the Government Relations Division is tracking 21 two-year bills. Many are still viable as “vehicles” for other subjects; consequently, staff will be on alert for possible “gut-and-amends” (bills that are amended with entirely new content).

STATE BUDGET

The Governor introduced his 2018-19 Budget Proposal on January 10, 2018. The Governor continues to invest state resources on strategies that seek to improve student completion of certificates/degrees and transfer. A key development in the Budget is the \$20 Million in ongoing and \$100 Million in one-time funds for the development of a fully online college that will create and coordinate "accessible, flexible, and high-quality" online courses and programs in order to expand access to college for working adults and others. The Budget includes a CCC student-focused funding formula that will provide districts with additional funding based on the number of low-income students enrolled and the number of degrees and certificates awarded. In addition, \$46 Million is proposed to implement the California College Promise program, which can be used to waive some or all community college fees for first-time, full-time resident students or for other innovative ways to improve student success goals.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST’S OFFICE REPORTS

The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) has released a number of reports in recent months that relate to higher education funding and policies, including:

- On November 15, 2017, the LAO provided an updated economic forecast for the state projecting a positive near term outlook. With current revenue and spending estimates and no additional budget commitments, the state would end the 2018-19 fiscal year with \$19.3 billion in total reserves. This amount includes \$7.5 billion in discretionary reserves.
- On December 19, 2017, the LAO issued an interim report on the CCC Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program, which includes a recommendation to allow students to enroll in the program until the 2023 sunset date. This action would encourage a greater number of students to enroll in the program. According to the LAO, a larger student enrollment measure would ensure the final evaluation provides better information to the Legislature with which to decide the program’s future.
- In the 2017-18 Budget Act, the Legislature tasked the Legislative Analysts’ Office with studying the possibility of a revised funding formula for higher education that would be similar to the K-12

Local Control Funding Formula, which provides supplemental and concentration funding for school districts based on the number of low-income, foster youth, and English language learner students. On December 20, 2018, the LAO released its' report. The report provides an inventory of system-wide supplemental programs for low-income and first-generation college students at each of the three segments, an assessment of the current approach for supporting these students, and options for restructuring funding and support for these students. Specific to community colleges, the LAO found that numerous categorical programs exist to serve low-income and first-generation students, but the structure and approach for categoricals is "complicated, overly rigid, and administratively burdensome." The LAO found that CCCs would benefit from a streamlined approach to provide more flexibility and local control for funding.

SENATE LEADERSHIP

The Senate Democratic Caucus unanimously selected Senator Toni Atkins of San Diego as its next Pro Tem. A formal Senate floor vote will occur in March of 2018, and Senator Atkins will transition into the new office.

LEGISLATOR RESIGNATIONS

In the State Assembly, the Democrats lost their super majority vote due to the departures of Assemblymembers Paul Bocanegra, Matthew M. Dababneh, and Sebastian Ridley-Thomas. While a two-thirds vote is no longer required for the state budget, it is still required for legislation that places an initiative on the statewide ballot or raises taxes. The special primary election to replace Assemblymember Bocanegra is on April 3, 2018. If none of the candidates receives over fifty percent of the vote, the run-off election takes place on June 5, 2018. Special election dates for the other two open seats have yet to be confirmed.

CHANCELLORS OFFICE SPONSORED LEGISLATION

In 2018, the Chancellor's Office will be sponsoring two bills and seeking several smaller changes to the Education Code that we hope will be included in the higher education omnibus proposal.

- **Supervised Tutoring.** This proposal would increase student access to supervised tutoring by authorizing noncredit apportionment for supervised tutoring to assist students in credential/degree-applicable and transfer-level courses.
- **Data Sharing.** In order to facilitate the collection and analysis of wage outcomes for high school graduates using the Employment Development Department to enable program evaluations, this legislation would require the California Department of Motor Vehicles to enter into an interagency agreement on data sharing with CCC and the California Department of Education (CDE).
- **Additional Proposals.** The Chancellor's Office is also seeking a number of smaller changes, including; changing the report due date for the Career Development and College Preparation Report to the Legislature, allowing the Foster and Homeless Student Liaison to verify homeless status, extending the date by which colleges must adopt a nonresident fee, and authorizing colleges to use the residency determination of another college. The Chancellor's Office is also in discussions around the LAO recommendation to extend the student enrollment deadline in the Baccalaureate Pilot Program.

PRIORITY BILLS

The attached legislative matrix identifies all bills currently tracked by the Division and categorizes bills according to priority in various tier levels. The bills outlined below are priority bills with a direct impact on community colleges and the students our colleges serve. For details and copies of any bill, contact the Governmental Relations Division of the Chancellor's Office or visit the Legislative Counsel's website at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.

Faculty Issues

AB 310 (Medina) Part-time faculty office hours. AB 310 requires each community college district to report the total part-time faculty office hours paid divided by the total part-time faculty hours taught during the prior fiscal year and prominently post this information on its Internet Web site on or before August 15 of each year.

- Status: Passed in the Assembly Higher Education Committee (13-0) and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Immigration Services and Undocumented Immigrants

SB 183 (Lara) State buildings: federal immigration agents. SB 183 prohibits Federal Immigration Enforcement (ICE) personnel without a valid federal warrant from entering California public schools and public institutions of higher education for purposes of performing surveillance, making arrests, or questioning individuals attending school or seeking state services.

- Status: Passed in the Senate Public Safety Committee (5-2) and sent to the Senate floor.

SB 691 (Lara) Educational equity: immigration status. SB 691 adds immigration status as a covered basis under the Equity in Higher Education Act. This bill specifically references immigration status as a protected class from discrimination in California's public higher education segments, and creates parity between higher education and K-12 public schools regarding state policies on educational equity.

- Status: Passed in the Senate Judiciary Committee (5-2) and sent to the Senate floor.

AB 1862 (Santiago, Carrillo) Immigration services: grants. AB 1862 adds legal assistance to the list of eligible services provided to individuals who fall under the federal Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation. The United States Secretary of Homeland Security designates a foreign country for TPS status due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely or if the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals. This bill also appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Social Services for the 2017–18 fiscal year for purposes of providing grants to qualified organizations that provide legal assistance to individuals affected by the termination of the TPS designation for El Salvador.

- Status: Introduced

Student Services

AB 1803 (Choi) Postsecondary education: career placement and job search services for graduates. AB 1803 requires a public or private institution of higher education that offers a Baccalaureate Degree Program, provide career placement and job search services to students, and

receives state funds for student financial assistance to provide career placement and job search services to individuals for five years after they complete a baccalaureate degree at the institution.

- Status: Introduced

AB 1805 (Irwin) Community colleges: placement policies. AB 1805 requires a community college district (CCD) to provide public notice of its policies regarding the placement of students. The bill also requires the notice to include the CCD's placement policies regarding 1) threshold scores required on specified assessments, 2) requisite grades in specific high school courses, and 3) recommendations by an instructor or counselor.

- Status: Introduced

Tuition, Fees and Financial Aid

AB 1037 (Limon) Public Postsecondary Education: Student Financial Aid. AB 1037 establishes the Cal Grant B Service Incentive Grant Program, under the administration of the California Student Aid Commission. The program is a state work-study program available to California's AB 540 students who are ineligible for Federal Work Study (FWS) programs, and supported through the State General Fund resources. In order to be eligible for the grant, a student must be a recipient of a Cal Grant B award, enrolled at a UC, CSU, community college, or private, non-profit campus, and perform a minimum of 300 hours of community service or volunteer work in each academic year. Recent amendments to the bill limit the number of eligible students simultaneously receiving grants under the program to 2,500 awards per term.

- Status: Passed in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education (9-3) and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1858 (Calderon) Student financial aid: Financial Aid Shopping Sheet. AB 1858 adds a provision to the Donahoe Higher Education Act that would require public and private California colleges and universities to use the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet as developed by the U.S. Department of Education or a successor document identified by the Student Aid Commission to inform students about financial aid award packages.

- Status: Introduced

Veterans

AB 809 (Quirk-Silva) Veterans' priority registration for enrollment in nursing programs. AB 809 clarifies that veterans are granted priority enrollment for California Community Colleges and California State University nursing programs.

- Status: Passed in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education (13-0) and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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