



January 13, 2017

OVERVIEW

Members of the California State Legislature that were elected on November 8, 2016, were sworn in on December 5, 2016, for the 2017-2018 session. Legislative Rules provide members from December 5, 2016 through February 17, 2017 to introduce new legislation. To date, just under 300 measures have been introduced in the Senate and Assembly; of those, about 34 may be of interest to community colleges. If history is our guide, we will see between 130 and 250 measures affecting our system by the deadline. Of the bills introduced thus far, staff have reviewed these measures and summaries of high priority bills are below.

The summaries that follow are for our top priority, or “Tier 1” bills, and reflect the information that was available when this update was drafted. 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://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.

BILLS OF INTEREST

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- **AB 95 (Jones-Sawyer) Public Postsecondary Education: California State University: Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program.** AB 95 requires CSU to establish a BA Degree Pilot Program to create a model among K-12 schools, community colleges, and CSU campuses to allow students to earn a BA degree for \$10,000. The bill would authorize up to seven pilot programs to be established, but would only include institutions which request to participate. The BA degrees awarded in this program shall be limited to the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). AB 95 requires participating community colleges to grant priority enrollment to students in this pilot program.
 - Status: Introduced

CAMPUS CLIMATE/CAMPUS SAFETY

- **AB 21 (Kalra) Public Postsecondary Education: Access to Higher Education for Every Student.** AB 21 would require the governing boards of community college districts and CSU trustees, and would request UC regents, to refrain from releasing certain information regarding the immigration status of students served by these campuses. Additionally, the bill calls for public colleges and universities to refuse to allow officers or employees of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enter campuses on official business unless they provide a 10 business days’ advance notice.
 - Status: Introduced.
- **SB 54 (de León) Law Enforcement: Sharing Data.** SB 54 prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies, school police and community college police from using resources to investigate, detain, detect, report, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purpose.
 - Status: Introduced

- **HR 4 (Rendon) and SR 7 (de León) Relative to Immigration.** HR 4 and SR 7 convey strong support for “Dreamer” students by members of the California State Senate and Assembly. Both measures contain language condemning bigoted, racist, or misinformed descriptions of the immigrant community. The two resolutions contain three primary requests to the President-elect and Congress: 1) continue President Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program commonly known as DACA, 2) reject any expansion of the “expedited removal” process which operates without administrative oversight and limits due process for individuals, and 3) develop rational immigration policies that recognize the contributions of immigrants to the nation, protects the economy, and are just and humane to immigrant families and children.
 - Status: Both measures passed out of their respective houses as introduced.

FACILITIES

- **SB 7 (Moorlach) School District and Community College District Bonds.** SB 7 requires K-12 school districts and community college districts to specify each project for a local bond in facilities master plans.
 - Status: Introduced

GOVERNANCE

- **SB 25 (Portantino) Integrated K-14 System.** SB 25 requires the Legislative Analyst to conduct an assessment and make recommendations for the integration of the state’s elementary schools, secondary schools and the California Community Colleges into one coordinated education system. In preparing the assessment, the LAO shall consider the expansion of concurrent enrollment programs, determine the cost of providing free access to the California Community Colleges, and determine what, if any, curriculum changes are needed to better facilitate transfer and employment.
 - Status: Introduced

MISCELLANEOUS

- **AB 52 (Cooper) Public Employee: Orientation and Informational Programs.** AB 52 requires public agencies (including community college districts) to provide all employees an orientation. The bill would also require these public agencies to permit the exclusive representative, if applicable, to participate.
 - Status: Introduced

STUDENT SERVICES

- **SB 12 (Beall) Foster Youth in Higher Education.** SB 12 is intended to improve post-secondary achievement among foster youth. The bill requires every county child welfare agency to assist foster youth in the financial aid application process; requires the Student Aid Commission to work with the State Department of Social Services to develop an automated system to verify a student’s foster youth status for applying for federal Pell Grants; and expands Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) program from the current level of 10 community college districts to 20 districts.
 - Status: Introduced

TUITION, FEES, FINANCIAL AID

- **AB 17 (Holden) Transit Passes.** AB 17 would create a Transit Pass Program that provides free and reduced-cost transit passes to middle school and high school students eligible for funding under Title 1 of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, community college recipients of the Board of Governors fee waiver, and Cal Grant and/or Pell Grant recipients at UC and CSU campuses. The bill identifies the California Department of Transportation as the program administrator, and the department would be required to report on whether the program increases transit ridership among students.
 - Status: Introduced

- **AB 19 (Santiago) Community Colleges: Enrollment Fee Waiver.** AB 19 changes the financial need threshold to one dollar for determining the expected family contribution of students seeking a Board of Governors fee waiver.
 - Status: Introduced

- **AB 34 (Nazarian) Student Financial Aid: Children’s Savings Account Program.** AB 34 declares the Legislature’s intent to enact legislation that would establish a universal, at-birth, and statewide 529 Children’s Savings Account Program to ensure California’s children and families foster a college-bound identity and practice education-related financial planning.
 - Status: Introduced

- **AB 38 (Stone) Student Loan Servicers: Licensing and Regulation.** AB 38 declares the Legislature’s intent to build upon existing law to ensure that the Student Loan Servicing Act’s goals are met and to work with advocates, departments, and industry to create a smooth transition into the program.
 - Status: Introduced

- **SB 15 (Leyva) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant C Awards.** SB 15 helps community college students cover the costs of attending college by increasing the amount of their Cal Grant C award for access costs from \$547 to \$3,000, commencing with the 2017–18 award year. Access costs include textbooks, supplies, transportation, rent, food, and other living expenses.
 - Status: Introduced

- **SB 68 (Lara) Public postsecondary education: exemption from nonresident tuition.** SB 68 enables two years at a California Community College to count towards eligibility for the nonresident tuition fee. Additionally, the bill would allow the completion of an Associate’s degree or satisfaction of the minimum requirements to transfer in lieu of a high school diploma for instate tuition and certain types of instate financial aid.
 - Status: Introduced

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