



California Community Colleges  
**Government Relations**  
**Legislative Update**  
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## Legislative Update for June 2009

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The Legislature is in the midst of convening policy committee hearings on all remaining bills being considered in the second house. The number of bills being considered in these committees is significantly reduced because of recent actions taken by the Appropriations Committees in both houses to hold bills with any significant fiscal impact. As a result, the number of bills being heard by each policy committee in the second house is a fraction of what the committees typically hear. The last day for policy committees to meet and report bills is July 10<sup>th</sup>.

The overwhelming dynamic affecting current legislative business is how the state will grapple with closing the mounting state deficit through the work of the 10-member Joint Legislative Budget Conference Committee. Although this activity has drawn much of the focus this legislative session, it is important to note the progress of several bills still moving through the process.

This Legislative Update highlights the major bills affecting the California Community Colleges.

The Board of Governors has sponsored two bills that enhance community college student success by removing difficult educational hurdles. **AB 669 (Fong)** waives existing residency requirements that charge nonresident fees for recently emancipated foster youth for one-year and one day in order for them to establish their own residency status in California. This bill has not received any "no" votes and is expected to move swiftly through the Senate. **AB 386 (Ruskin)** establishes a mechanism for community colleges to comply with state and federal equal access laws by providing captioned instructional materials for deaf and hearing impaired students without violating copyright laws. Representatives of the community colleges have been in negotiations with the publishers association and are hopeful to strike an agreement on how to move forward on this important bill.

**AB 440 (Beall)** addresses the transfer issue by authorizing colleges to award community college transfer students an AA degree in Transfer Studies upon completion of specified requirements. The Chancellor's Office and the State Academic Senate have expressed significant concerns with this bill. The Chancellor's Office has offered amendments that promote better alignment between transfer course-work and the course requirements for a community college degree in a major or area of emphasis and ensure that the degree reflects the area of study completed by the student. These negotiations are still underway.

Several bills address the nursing shortage. **AB 1295 (Fuller)** establishes a working group made up of representatives of the community colleges and the CSU to streamline the transfer pathway for a community college ADN to transfer to a CSU BSN program. The Chancellor's Office has discussed this bill with the Consultation Council and is supportive of the measure. **AB 867 (Nava)** would authorize the CSU to independently award a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. The Chancellor's Office has supported this effort as a mechanism to building the nursing faculty pipeline and ultimately prepare more nursing faculty to teach at community colleges. **AB 492 (Conway)** and **SB 182 (Ashburn)** both propose to extend the time a temporary clinical nursing faculty can teach at a community colleges, but do so in slightly different ways. The Chancellor's Office has not taken a position on these bills, while other constituencies have weighed in heavily.

Many of the workforce issues being addressed in the Legislature attempt to capture federal stimulus funds. **AB 1394 (Bass)** extends the authority of the existing Green Collar Jobs Council to receive federal resources, including stimulus funds, for purpose of carrying out the work of the Council. The Chancellor's Office supports this measure. **AB 747 (Romero)** establishes a community college pilot apprenticeship program for high school students interested in preparing to work in the aerospace industry. Implementation of this bill is contingent on the receipt of federal funds.

Finally, the legislature has taken a strong interest in helping veterans and military personnel pursue a postsecondary education. **SB 815 (Cogdill)** creates a new financial aid program specifically designed to assist members of the California National Guard, Naval Militia and the State Military Reserves fund their education. This bill has broad support and one that the Chancellor's Office has been monitoring closely.

The following provides a summary and the status of a more comprehensive list of significant bills moving through the legislative process. For a status update on all bills tracked by the Chancellor's Office, go to:

<http://www.cccco.edu/SystemOffice/Divisions/GovRelations/LegislativeUpdates/tabid/561/Default.aspx>  
Click on matrix, PDF.

## Board of Governors Sponsored Bills:

### **[AB 386 \(Ruskin\)](#) Public Postsecondary Education: Instructional Materials: Disabled Students**

**Summary:** AB 386 clarifies that publishers of audiovisual instructional materials for colleges and universities must provide captioning or other alterations to make these materials accessible to students with disabilities.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (77-0), and will be heard by the Senate Education Committee on July 1, 2009.

### **[AB 669 \(Fong\)](#) Postsecondary Education: Residency Requirements – Foster Youth**

**Summary:** AB 669 creates an exception to the uniform residency requirement and allows emancipated foster youth who are age 19 and under to pay California resident in-state tuition and fees. This bill allows a student to maintain the California residency status he or she had as a minor until the time they can establish residency on their own. AB 669 makes it easier for former foster youth to establish residency for purposes of attending college, paying in-state tuition, and applying for financial aid.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (73-0), and passed the Senate Education Committee on the consent file on June 17, 2009. AB 669 will be heard next in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## Assembly Bills:

### **[AB 37 \(Furutani\)](#) Public Postsecondary Education: Honorary Degrees**

**Summary:** The bill would require the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and would request the Regents of the University of California, to work with their respective colleges and universities to confer an honorary degree upon each person, living or deceased, who was forced to leave his or her postsecondary studies as a result of federal Executive Order 9066 which caused the incarceration of individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (80-0), and the Senate Education Committee on June 10, 2009 and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**[AB 218 \(Portantino\)](#) Postsecondary Education: Educational and Economic Goals for California Higher Education**

**Summary:** This bill requires the state to establish a statewide accountability framework to biennially assess and report on the collective progress made by the four system's of postsecondary education in meeting state educational and economic policy goals.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (74-5), and will be heard by the Senate Education Committee on July 1, 2009.

**[AB 440 \(Beall\)](#) California Community Colleges: Student Transfer**

**Summary:** The bill would enact the College Student Success Act, which would authorize a community college district to grant an associate in arts degree in transfer studies or an equivalent program to a student meeting specified requirements.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (66-8), and will be heard by the Senate Education Committee on July 1, 2009.

**[AB 492 \(Conway\)](#) Community colleges: nursing faculty**

**Summary:** Amends existing law to allow temporary clinical nursing faculty at California Community Colleges to teach an unlimited number of semesters or quarters within any period of three consecutive years until June 30, 2014. Current law limits temporary clinical nursing faculty at CCC to teaching four semesters or six quarters in any three-year period until June 30, 2014. AB 492 authorizes a community college district to employ temporary clinical nursing faculty even if the hiring of such faculty results in an increase in the ratio of part-time to full-time nursing faculty in that community college district. AB 492 is similar to SB 182 (Ashburn), in that both would amend Education Code Section 87482 which refers to the hiring of clinical nursing faculty. SB 182 goes further and amends Sections 87482.6 and 87482.7 on the ration of full-time/part-time instruction.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (54-11), and will be heard by the Senate Education Committee on June 24, 2009.

**[AB 867 \(Nava\)](#) California State University: Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.**

**Summary:** AB 867 would authorize the California State University to award a Doctor of Nursing Practice under certain conditions specified in the bill. The bill would distinguish the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the doctor of philosophy degree offered at the University of California. The bill would require the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program to be designed to enable professionals to earn the degree while working full time, train nurses for advanced practice, and prepare clinical faculty to teach in postsecondary nursing programs.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (71-7), and sent to the Senate for assignment to a policy committee.

**[AB 1008 \(Block\)](#) Community Colleges: Student Assessment**

**Summary:** The bill would require the Board of Governors to convene a working group including representatives of the Legislative Analyst's Office, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, and the California Community Colleges Consultation Council to make findings and recommendations regarding assessments that can be utilized to test basic skills of students entering community college. The bill would require the working group to present its findings to the Legislature and Governor on or before July 1, 2010.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (54-23), and sent to the Senate for assignment to a policy committee.

**[AB 1295 \(Fuller\)](#) Postsecondary Education: Nursing Degree Programs**

**Summary:** This bill streamlines the transfer pathway for community college students who earn their Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN), are licensed as a registered nurse and who apply to a California State University to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). This bill seeks to reduce unnecessary coursework and to create a more efficient ADN to BSN transfer pathway.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (76-0), and will be heard by the Senate Education Committee on July 1, 2009.

**[AB 1394 \(Bass\)](#) California Workforce Investment Board: Green Collar Jobs Council**

**Summary:** AB 1394 authorizes the Green Collar Jobs Council to accept any revenues, moneys, grants, goods, or services from federal and state governmental entities, local philanthropic organizations, and other sources, to be used for purposes relating to the administration and implementation of the strategic initiative. The bill would require the Council to confer with appropriate state and local agencies to coordinate the award of specified federal grant funds and green workforce training funds received by the state, and to make a finding that a proposed program or expenditure is consistent with the purposes of the initiative, prior to authorizing the expenditure of funds made available to the state pursuant to the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Status:** Passed the Assembly (76-0), and will be heard by the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations on June 24, 2009.

**Senate Bills:****[SB 182 \(Ashburn\)](#) Community College Nursing Faculty**

**Summary:** SB 182 removes existing statutory employment restrictions related to community college temporary clinical nursing faculty through June 30, 2014. The goal of this bill is to delete any statutory limits on the employment of full-time or part-time clinical nursing faculty. SB 182 also removes the hours of credit instruction provided by part-time and full-time clinical nursing faculty from a district's calculation of its full-time and part-time faculty ratio. This measure is similar to SB 1620 (Ashburn, 2008), which was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee. The intent of this measure is the same as AB 492 (Conway). Both measure would amend Education Code Section 87482 which refers to the hiring of clinical nursing faculty. SB 182 goes further and amends Sections 87482.6 and 87482.7 on full-time instruction.

**Status:** Passed the Senate (26-5), and will be heard by the Assembly Committee on Higher Education on June 23, 2009.

**[SB 361 \(Runner\)](#) Public Postsecondary Education: Priority Registration: Armed Forces and State Military**

**Summary:** This bill makes changes to existing law giving veterans priority registration at a California State University or California Community Colleges, by prohibiting priority registration to those who received a "dishonorable" or "bad conduct" discharge. SB 361 adds the California National Guard to the applicant pool for priority registration.

**Status:** Passed the Senate Floor (39-0) and will be heard by the Assembly Committee on Higher Education on June 23, 2009.

**[SB 747 \(Romero\)](#) Career Technical Education: Aerospace**

**Summary:** This bill establishes a pilot pre-apprenticeship program, to be implemented by the California Community Colleges to prepare high school pupils to work in the aerospace industry. The implementation of this program is contingent upon the receipt of federal funds.

**Status:** Passed the Senate Floor (39-0) and is in the Assembly for assignment to a policy committee.

**[SB 815 \(Cogdill\)](#) Student Financial Aid Program: California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program**

**Summary:** This bill creates a state program to provide financial aid to members of the California National Guard, Naval Militia and State Military Reserves. The aid would be awarded by the Adjutant General of the California National Guard and administrative support would be provided by the California Student Aid Commission.

**Status:** Passed the Senate Floor (35-0) and is in the Assembly for assignment to a policy committee.