

# State Policy and Advocacy Update

## STATE ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

The Chancellor's Office continues to meet with and engage new legislative members and staff regarding our advocacy priorities for the 2023 legislative year. We remain committed to supporting and uplifting policies that result in equitable student access, success, and completion, while maintaining the fiscal health and resiliency of our system. As the legislative deadline to introduce bills approaches, we will carefully examine these proposals to ensure that they strengthen the California Community Colleges' (CCCs) ability to support students' degree, program, and career goals and are consistent with the *Vision for Success* and Governor's Roadmap for the Future.

Due to her critical advocacy and commitment to ensuring undocumented student success, the Chancellor's Office recently honored Senator Monique Limón as part of our annual Rice Awards. Senator Limón authored Senate Bill (SB) 1141 during the 2022 Legislative Session, which lifted the cap on credit courses undocumented adult learners may use to qualify for a nonresident tuition exemption under Assembly Bill (AB) 540. We thank Senator Limón for being a legislative equity champion and eliminating barriers for our students.

## STATE LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

As of this writing, we have identified 38 bills that have an impact on higher education or the Chancellor's Office. Of these bills, 24 are classified at Tier 1 and most likely to have a direct impact on the CCCs, our faculty, and students. The deadline for the Legislature to introduce bills is February 17<sup>th</sup>. A full Legislative Matrix and a list of all Tier 1 bills can be found by visiting the [State Relations page on the Chancellor's Office website](http://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Government-Relations-Policy-in-Action/Policy-in-action/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation). (www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Government-Relations-Policy-in-Action/Policy-in-action/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation).

At this time, the Chancellor's Office has not taken positions on any legislation. We are sponsoring three bills related to AB 540 transfer students, compensation for Board of Governors student members, and Economic and Workforce Development program modernization. Fact sheets for these bills are included as attachments to this item, and a verbal update on the status of each bill will be provided at the Council meeting.

For additional details on bills, visit the [Legislative Counsel's website](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/) (leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/).

## HIGH-PRIORITY LEGISLATION UNDER REVIEW

### **AB 25 (McCarty) Postsecondary education: debt-free college.**

States the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that would establish a debt-free college system.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 26 (M. Fong) Personal Income Tax Law: exclusion: federal student loan debt relief plan.**

Would exclude from an individual's gross income, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, any amount of qualified student loan debt that is discharged under President Biden's federal student loan debt relief plan.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 35 (Ting) Personal Income Tax Law: exclusion: student loan debt.**

Would exclude from an individual's gross income, for taxable years between January 1, 2021, and January 1, 2026, the amount of certain student loans discharged between December 31, 2020, and January 1, 2026, in conformity with federal law.

*Status:* Referred to the Assembly Budget Committee.

**AB 91 (Alvarez) Nonresident tuition exemption: San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCA).**

Would, until July 1, 2028, authorize a SDICCA college located within 25 miles of the California-Mexico border to exempt, from the payment of nonresident tuition, a low-income student who is a resident of Mexico, registers for lower division courses, and has residence within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border. This bill would also authorize each participating SDICCA college to claim apportionment for up to 200 full-time equivalent students (FTES) annually.

*Status:* Referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

**AB 247 (Muratsuchi) Kindergarten Through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2024.**

This bond bill, if enacted by voters during an unspecified 2024 statewide election, would provide an unspecified amount for the CCCs to construct and modernize educational facilities.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 252 (Holden) The College Athlete Protection Act.**

Would require each institution of education to establish a degree completion fund for its college athletes who receive athletic grants but do not receive fair market value compensation in an academic year.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 255 (Alanis) Priority registration for first responders.**

Would require the California State University (CSU) and CCCs, and request the University of California (UC), to grant priority registration to first responders.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 260 (Santiago) Community colleges: part-time employees.**

Would require persons who are employed to teach adult or community college classes part-time to receive compensation in at least an amount that bears the same ratio to the amount provided to full-time employees with comparable duties relative to time spent.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 263 (Jones-Sawyer) Pilot program for free cost of education: working group.**

Would require the California Student Aid Commission to convene a working group with specified higher education representatives to create a pilot program that would cover the total cost of postsecondary education in California.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 264 (Ting) Community colleges: Lunar New Year holiday.**

Would authorize a community college district, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding, to replace closing on Lincoln Day or Washington Day with Lunar New Year.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 274 (Bryan) CalWORKs: CalFresh: eligibility: income exclusions.**

Would exempt any grant, award, scholarship, loan, or fellowship benefit provided to any member for educational purposes from consideration as income for purposes of determining CalWORKs eligibility or grant amounts.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 290 (Hoover) Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: Strong Workforce Program.**

Would consolidate specified K-12 career technical education programs, increase ongoing funding for the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant program to \$450 million per year, and delete authorization for the K-12 Strong Workforce Program.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 299 (Holden) Hazing: educational institutions: civil liability.**

Would establish civil liability for an educational institution if the institution has direct involvement in, knew, or should have known of, the dangerous hazing practices of a student organization affiliated with the educational institution.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 311 (Santiago) California Food Assistance Program: eligibility and benefits.**

Would remove the age limitation of the California Food Assistance Program and make any individual eligible for the program if their immigration status is the sole basis for their ineligibility for CalFresh benefits.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 320 (Lee) Student Aid Commission.**

Would expand the California Student Aid Commission to include four student members, one from each of the following: UC, CSU, CCCs, and a California private postsecondary educational institution.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 358 (Addis) Community college districts: student housing.**

Would remove the requirement for residential community college district student housing plans to be approved by the Division of the State Architect.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 359 (Holden) College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships.**

Would appropriate an unspecified amount from the General Fund to the California Department of Education and Chancellor's Office to provide technical support and services for CCAP partnerships.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 376 (Villapudua) Cal Grant C: driver training programs: commercial motor vehicles.**

Would authorize a Cal Grant C award to be used for entry-level driver training programs of less than four months that comply with specified driver training regulations related to commercial motor vehicles.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**AB 377 (Muratsuchi) Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: Strong Workforce Program.**

Would consolidate specified K-12 career technical education programs, increase ongoing funding for the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant program to \$450 million per year, and delete authorization for the K-12 Strong Workforce Program.

*Status:* Pending referral in the Assembly.

**SB 1 (Glazer) Personal Income Tax Law: exclusions: student loan forgiveness.**

Would exclude from an individual's gross income, for taxable years between January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2026, the amount of any student loans waived, canceled, or otherwise forgiven under President Biden's federal student loan debt relief plan.

*Status:* Referred to the Senate Governance and Finance Committee.

**SB 25 (Skinner) Personal Income Tax Law: exclusion: student loan debt.**

Would exclude from an individual's gross income, for taxable years between January 1, 2021, and January 1, 2026, the amount of certain student loans discharged between December 31, 2020, and January 1, 2026, in conformity with federal law.

*Status:* Referred to the Senate Governance and Finance Committee.

**SB 28 (Glazer) Public Preschool, K–12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2024.**

This bond bill, if enacted by voters during the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, would provide \$2 billion for the CCCs to construct and modernize educational facilities.

*Status:* Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

**SB 234 (Portantino) Opioid antagonists.**

Would require all public, independent, and private postsecondary educational institutions to maintain unexpired doses of naloxone hydrochloride or any other opioid antagonist on its campus at all times, and ensure that at least two employees are aware of the location of the opioid antagonist.

*Status:* Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

**SB 245 (Hurtado) California Food Assistance Program: eligibility and benefits.**

Would remove the age limitation of the California Food Assistance Program and make any individual eligible for the program if their immigration status is the sole basis for their ineligibility for CalFresh benefits.

*Status:* Referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

**ADVOCATES**

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