

California State Senate

SENATOR
JOHN LAIRD

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



Senate Bill 391 – Community Colleges: Chancellor of the California Community Colleges: Data Request Fee Policy

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 391 imposes fees or charges upon research partners who are seeking access to compilation of large and complex datasets put together by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. The fee or charge is equivalent to the direct cost of producing the data.

BACKGROUND

The Chancellor's Office spends a significant amount of time and labor in responding to data requests from research partners seeking to establish or renew MOUs. The fulfillment of these data requests diverts a significant portion of the Chancellor's Office workload from existing responsibilities. These include its duty to manage a complex, statewide data management information system, and to fulfill data requests for more than 55 onetime, annual and biennial legislative reports and provide data to monitor multiple different state-level programs or initiatives. As the largest higher education system in the country, the datasets are considerably large. These data requests can take anywhere from a few weeks, multiple months, or multiple years to complete. It is already common practice for research entities seeking data compilation from state entities to be charged a fee. For this reason, research entities often have funding set aside for the acquisition of data from state entities. Yet, as a state agency, the Chancellor's Office is not

permitted to charge fees without legislative approval. The Chancellor's Office seeks to continue to support research partners in completing valuable research studies utilizing data on students, faculty, staff and facilities within the community college system. The revenue generated supports the Chancellor's Office long-term efforts to continue to provide high quality data in a timely manner to research partners.

THIS BILL

Senate Bill 391 imposes fees or charges upon researchers who are requesting system-level data from the Chancellor's Office. The fee policy will be established by the Board of Governors, revised periodically, and posted publicly on the Chancellor's website. Fees or charges will compensate the Chancellor's Office for the time and labor invested in the data compilation. Fees or charges may not be imposed on State Agencies except the University of California, the California State University, or the State Department of Education. Students seeking data for their individual research studies are exempt from the fees.