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# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AGENDA

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**Coast Community College District  
Legislative Affairs Committee Special Meeting  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.  
Chancellor's Conference Room**

Via Zoom: <https://cccd-edu.zoom.us/j/85105524401>

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

*Members of the public have the opportunity to address the Legislative Affairs Committee on any item that has been described in this notice. Persons wishing to make comments for this purpose will be recognized at this point in the meeting. Individuals will have up to five minutes per Agenda item, and there is a 20-minute total limit per item. These time limitations may be extended by the Committee. The Committee members cannot respond to these public comments.*

*It is the intention of the Coast Community College District to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the Coast Community College District will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Secretary of the Board to inform us of your particular needs so that appropriate accommodations may be made.*

- 4. Welcome Trustee Kimberly Carr to the Legislative Affairs Committee**
- 5. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee**
- 6. Approval of Minutes: January 15, 2026 (Attachment #1)**
- 7. Federal Update and Community College Legislation (Attachment #2)**
- 8. State Community College Legislation (Attachment #2)**
- 9. AB 2053 Cyber Security Bachelor's Degree (Attachment #3)**
- 10. AB 1171 – Part Time Faculty Health Care**
- 11. State Budget Activity**
- 12. Future Agenda Items**
- 13. Next Meeting Date**
- 14. Adjournment**

*The Committee may take action on any item listed on this agenda. Under the Brown Act, the Public has the right to receive copies of any non-exempt public documents relating to an agenda item that are distributed to the committee members. Please contact the Office of the Board of Trustees to facilitate the distribution of these documents.*

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# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

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## Coast Community College District Legislative Affairs Committee Special Meeting Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Held Via Zoom

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm.

### 2. Roll Call

**Present:** Trustee Phu Nguyen (in person, standing in for Trustee Prinsky)  
Trustee Jim Moreno (in person)

**In Attendance:**

Julie Clevenger, Director of Chancellor's Office Operations  
Matt Kern, Director of Public Affairs and Marketing  
Ricky Goetz, Manager Board Support Services & Board Secretary

**Online:**

Whitney Yamamura, Chancellor  
Andreea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology  
Marlene Drinkwine, Vice Chancellor of Finance  
Meridith Randall, President, Golden West College  
Casey Elliott, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs  
Emily Day, Executive Director Fiscal Services, Fiscal Affairs  
Curtis Williams, OCC Educational Technology Specialist General, Library & Learning

### 3. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no requests to address the Legislative Affairs Committee.

### 4. Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2025

On a motion by Trustee Moreno, seconded by Trustee Nguyen, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2025 meeting.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Trustee Nguyen and Trustee Moreno  
No: None  
Absent: None

## **5. Federal Update and Community College Legislation**

Casey Elliott, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs provided the Federal update for the meeting. Congress and the Administration were working to finalize the outstanding FY2026 Appropriations bills. The Continuing Resolution was approved through January 30, 2025 ending the government shutdown last year. A “mini-bus” was approved by the House and passed by the Senate that contained the Appropriations bills for Commerce and Justice, Energy and Water, and Interior and Environment. These bills were on the way to the President’s desk for consideration. More bills were anticipated to be approved within the next couple of weeks.

Other Federal updates included the final rules for the Workforce Pell Grant was in the completion stages and would be implemented by July 1, 2026. Numerous bipartisan Senators and Representatives have submitted letters of request to the Department of Education regarding HR1 to include financial aid for graduate level nursing programs. In early December the Senate Education Committee was holding hearings related to workforce development and receiving information about the need for career tech, short term job training, basic learning and credentialing programs. Members in Washington are willing to work across the aisle on these issues.

Earmark requests were discussed briefly. Requests through House members are more successful at this time, although limited.

## **6. State Community College Legislation**

The Legislature returned to session on January 5, 2026, and there was the official swearing in of Pro Tempore Monique Limon as the 50<sup>th</sup> California State Senate President.

Assemblymember Mike Fong has a new select committee on effective post-secondary career technical education and workforce development programs. The committee held an informational meeting in December 2025. The hearings signaled Assemblymember Fong continues to work in the CTE space.

In December the Department of Finance released their Finance Bulletin showing the state continues to have revenues above the projected amounts approved in the 2025 budget. The excess amount was not accounted for in the Governor’s January revised budget.

This is the second year of the two-year session, and the legislature is taking care of second year bills. Included is AB664 from Assemblymember Alvarez’ bill dealing with multiple baccalaureate degrees at Southwestern Community College District. The measure was approved by the committee and opposed by UCCSU. This bill was amended with the most recent and preferred language.

Two newly introduced bills are AB1534 by Assemblymember Irwin, Student financial aid: federal Workforce Pell Grant program would prohibit UCCSU community colleges from distributing Workforce Pell related dollars until a state specified entity confirmed eligibility to do so. The bill should go to committee in March. The second bill mentioned that is on the same timeline was AS1552 by Assemblymember Jackson, requiring CSU

and community colleges beginning in the 2028-2029 academic year to update government and history courses to include topics of civic engagement, civic discourse and eliminates of democratic institutions.

## **7. State Budget Activity**

The January State Budget was out, and budget trailer bill language would be posted by February 1, 2026. Informational hearings would be held in the coming weeks. The main issues would continue to be the discrepancy on revenues with the LAO and also the impacts of HR1. The committee discussed the importance of continuing funding for SNAP benefits and health and human resources services for the community college students.

## **8. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Legislation for Cyber Security (Tri Ta)

## **9. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 2:00 pm.

## **10. Adjournment**

Trustee Moreno spoke to the great leadership Trustee Prinsky and also Trustee Patterson brought to the Legislative Affairs Committee through the years. Trustee Moreno thanked Trustee Prinsky for her years of service and for what she has done for Coast Colleges, including the good workmanship on crafting letters to the legislature.

Trustee Moreno personally thanked Trustee Prinsky for her service, and service well done.

The committee adjourned at 3:01 pm

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Richard Goetz  
Secretary of the Board

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## MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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**To:** **Coast Community College District**  
Legislative Affairs Committee

**From:** **Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.**  
Casey Elliott, Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer  
Joseph Melo, Federal Advocacy Manager

**Date:** March 10, 2026

**Subject:** **Legislative Affairs Update**

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### STATE UPDATE AND OUTLOOK

February marked a pivotal transition in the Legislative Session as the Legislature shifted from early organizational activity to a fast-moving bill introduction period and the first substantive steps in the budget process.

Throughout the month, lawmakers worked to finalize and introduce new legislation ahead of the February 20 bill introduction deadline. Activity ramped up significantly in the days leading to the cutoff, with hundreds of measures introduced in a matter of days. By the close of the deadline, more than 1,800 bills had been introduced for the 2026 session, including approximately 600 placeholder, or “spot,” bills that are expected to be amended with substantive language in the coming weeks.

Fiscal matters were also a central focus, as the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee convened hearings to review newly released budget trailer bills, providing an early look at proposed statutory changes tied to the Governor’s January budget proposal. Budget committees in both houses also considered early action plan measures, which advanced through the legislative process and were signed into law by Governor Newsom the same day, marking the first formal budget action of the year and underscoring the Legislature’s intent to address select fiscal items early in the cycle.

In addition to bill introductions and budget action, policy committees held a series of informational and oversight hearings. These hearings reflect the Legislature’s ongoing oversight responsibilities as it evaluates program performance and funding priorities.

With the introduction deadline now passed, the Legislature is preparing for an influx of bill hearings. Measures must satisfy the 30-day in-print requirement before being eligible for committee consideration, positioning late March as the beginning of more intensive policy deliberations. To remain on track, bills with fiscal implications must advance out of policy

committees and move to fiscal committees by April 24, while non-fiscal measures must clear policy committees by May 1 to reach their respective house of origin floors.

## STATE BUDGET UPDATE

In mid-February, the Legislature advanced two early-action budget measures, [AB 107](#) and [AB 117](#), through the committee process and delivered them to the Governor for signature.

On February 17, the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review and the Assembly Budget Committees convened to consider both proposals. AB 107, a “budget bill junior”, makes technical amendments to the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Budget Acts, including adjustments to federal fund authority, extensions of encumbrance deadlines, and modifications to Proposition 4 bond-funded programs. A central focus of committee discussion was the bill’s exemption of specified Proposition 4 appropriations from the Administrative Procedure Act to accelerate wildfire prevention and natural resource initiatives. Members raised questions regarding oversight, competitive bidding, and program safeguards, while Department of Finance representatives emphasized that the exemption is intended to avoid delays in time-sensitive projects and does not diminish accountability mechanisms.

AB 117 authorizes the California State Transportation Agency to loan up to \$590 million in previously awarded but unallocated Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funds to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to support short-term operating needs for BART, SFMTA, Caltrain, and AC Transit. Both Budget Committees examined repayment terms, security provisions, and potential fiscal risks, particularly in relation to a prospective regional ballot measure. Administration officials clarified that repayment obligations are enforceable regardless of ballot outcomes and are secured by pledged State Transit Assistance revenues, with the state retaining authority to withhold funds if necessary.

Following committee action, both measures moved to the Assembly and Senate Floors, where they passed both houses on February 19. Governor Newsom signed AB 107 and AB 117 into law the same day, and both measures took effect immediately.

## LAO Revenue Outlook Update

In February, the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) [released](#) an updated forecast indicating that the state’s three largest tax revenue sources, personal income, corporation, and sales taxes, are projected to exceed the Governor’s Budget assumptions by approximately \$6 billion.

The upward revision is driven primarily by stronger-than-anticipated personal income tax collections, supported by continued stock market gains. Much of this growth reflects elevated investment returns and higher compensation in the technology sector, including activity associated with artificial intelligence, which has increased tax withholding and overall income tax receipts.

Income tax revenues have been buoyed by an unusually strong equity market. Major stock indices have roughly doubled in value since 2020 and increased by about 70 percent over the past three years. In addition, December and January income tax payments — which capture investment and business earnings — were more than 50 percent higher than during the same period in the prior year, contributing significantly to the improved revenue outlook.

Despite the stronger near-term outlook, the LAO advises caution. Economic conditions outside the technology sector remain uneven, and revenues tied to capital gains and market performance have historically proven volatile and subject to rapid reversal during downturns. While the state's revenue outlook has improved relative to budget expectations, ongoing economic uncertainty and the volatility of key revenue sources suggest these gains may not translate into long-term fiscal stability.

## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### Senate Budget Subcommittee Reviews Homelessness Response and HHAP Outlook

The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 held a hearing on February 26 to examine the state's homelessness response system. The discussion focused primarily on the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program, data accountability, and long-term funding stability. Presenters noted some signs of stabilization in recent homelessness trends. However, a significant portion of the conversation centered on fiscal uncertainty and program oversight.

Members reviewed the status of HHAP Round 7, which is funded at \$500 million in the 2025 Budget Act; half the amount provided in each of the four prior rounds. Distribution of Round 7 funds is delayed until July 1, 2026, and contingent upon enactment of additional implementing legislation. The Governor's January 2026 budget proposal did not include additional funding for HHAP beyond what is currently authorized.

The Subcommittee also examined implementation of [AB 799 \(Rivas, 2024\)](#), which requires standardized fiscal and outcome reporting and the development of public dashboards beginning in 2027. Members raised questions regarding data consistency, quality controls, and reporting transparency across jurisdictions. Panelists further cautioned that potential reductions in federal housing resources could increase pressure on state and local systems, underscoring the importance of stable, predictable funding.

## STATE AGENCY UPDATES

### California Files Lawsuit Over Proposed Withdrawal of Federal Public Health Funds

California Attorney General Rob Bonta [announced](#) that the state filed a lawsuit challenging a recent directive from the Trump Administration to withdraw more than \$600 million in federal public health funding from four states, including California. According to state officials, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to terminate previously awarded grants to California, Colorado, Illinois, and Minnesota. California Attorney General Rob Bonta joined his counterparts in the other affected states seeking judicial relief to prevent the funding from being rescinded.

The challenged funds include support for infectious disease surveillance, immunization programs, and emergency preparedness efforts that were expanded during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. State officials assert that these resources are integrated into ongoing public health operations and are used to sustain staffing, data systems, laboratory capacity, and coordination with local health departments. In California alone, the state estimates that hundreds of millions of dollars in federal support are at risk, including a significant portion of funding that has been awarded but not yet drawn down.

At the center of the dispute is the Public Health Infrastructure Block Grant, a federal program designed to strengthen core public health capacity nationwide. In California, these funds help maintain workforce capacity and support essential responsibilities such as monitoring disease trends, responding to outbreaks and emergencies, operating public health laboratories, and reinforcing pharmacy and food supply systems. Of the approximately \$180 million allocated to California under this program, roughly \$130 million could be affected by the federal action.

In their complaint, the Attorneys General argue that the withdrawal of previously awarded funds does not comply with federal administrative requirements and lacks sufficient legal justification. They contend that reversing grant awards after states have relied on them to structure programs would disrupt established public health systems and exceed the federal government's authority. The lawsuit seeks a court order preventing the rescission from taking effect while the legal challenge proceeds.

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTIVITY

### Bills Signed into Law

In February, Governor Gavin Newsom signed multiple measures into law addressing consumer protection, veterans' benefits, and access to health care services. On February 10, he signed [SB 694 \(Caballero\)](#), which strengthens oversight of individuals and businesses that assist veterans in obtaining benefits, with the aim of preventing deceptive or predatory practices. The measure also establishes a tax reduction designed to provide targeted financial relief to military retirees.

In addition, the Governor took action on two additional measures, [AB 1485 \(Macedo\)](#) and [SB 25 \(Umberg\)](#), both of which address distinct but significant areas of state policy. AB 1485 revises state tax law to exempt certain property transfers involving the return of land to federally recognized Native American tribes from specified property and documentary transfer taxes. The measure is intended to reduce financial barriers associated with tribal land reacquisition and long-term land stewardship. SB 25 strengthens California's antitrust oversight by expanding reporting requirements for large mergers and acquisitions, providing state regulators with additional tools to monitor corporate consolidation and market impacts.

On February 11, the Governor signed [SB 106 \(Wiener\)](#), which allocates \$90 million in one-time emergency state funding to Planned Parenthood following federal action to withdraw financial support from the organization. According to state officials, the appropriation is intended to stabilize operations and help maintain access to reproductive health services in California while longer-term budget considerations are assessed.

On February 19, Governor Newsom signed [AB 107](#) and [AB 117](#) into law, marking the first budget-related enactments of the year. AB 107, a budget bill junior, makes technical revisions to prior Budget Acts, including adjustments to federal fund authority and certain Proposition 4 bond programs, and streamlines implementation of specified wildfire prevention and natural resource projects. AB 117 authorizes a loan of up to \$590 million in previously awarded Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funds to support near-term operating needs for select Bay Area transit agencies, with defined repayment and security provisions. Both measures took effect immediately upon the Governor's signature.

## PRIORITY LEGISLATION

### Legislative Calendar

Below are the upcoming relevant dates for the Legislature:

**January 5<sup>th</sup>** – Legislature reconvenes session

**January 10<sup>th</sup>** – Deadline for Governor to release his January Budget proposal

**January 16<sup>th</sup>** – Deadline for policy committees to consider two-year bills in their House of Origin

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Deadline for fiscal committees to consider two-year bills in their House of Origin

**January 31<sup>st</sup>** – Deadline for two-year bills to be passed out of their House of Origin

### Priority Bills

#### *AB 805 (Fong) – Career Apprenticeship Bridge Program*

This bill aims to create the Career Apprenticeship Bridge Program, administered by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards. The program's purpose is to facilitate and coordinate apprenticeships for individuals aged 16 to 24. It mandates the development of a youth apprenticeship data system and collaboration with educational bodies. Additionally, the division must report to the legislature by January 1, 2028, on barriers to employer participation, and maintain an online dashboard tracking participant outcomes by 2030. Status: This bill was approved on the Assembly Floor (73-0) on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The measure is currently at the Senate Desk awaiting referral to a policy committee.

#### *AB 1534 (Irwin) – Student financial aid: federal Workforce Pell Grant program*

Beginning July 1, 2026, this bill sets requirements for California educational institutions, such as the University of California and California State University, to participate in the federal Workforce Pell Grant program. Institutions must obtain authorization from a state entity and comply with the U.S. Department of Education's standards. The short-term educational programs must align with high-skill and high-demand industry sectors. The bill also involves the establishment of an advisory board for oversight and mandates confidentiality for student data. Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. The measure is currently awaiting a hearing date.

#### *AB 2053 (Ta) – Community colleges: baccalaureate degree program: Coast Community College District*

This bill would authorize the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to authorize the Coast Community College District to offer a workforce-aligned cybersecurity baccalaureate degree program at Coastline College. The bill would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to, on or before July 1, 2030, conduct and present to the Legislature and the Governor an interim evaluation of the baccalaureate degree program that is offered pursuant to that authorization and, on or before July 1, 2034, a final evaluation of that degree program. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2035. Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and is currently awaiting a hearing date.

#### *AB 2176 (Fong) – Student housing: intersegmental working group*

This bill would require the office of the Chancellor of the California State University and the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to establish an intersegmental student housing working group, composed of representatives from the 2 chancellor's offices, faculty, and students. The bill would request the office of the President of the University of California to join and appoint representatives to the working group. The bill would require the working group to use

assessments of unmet demand developed by the respective segments in order to further analyze systemwide, regional, and campus-specific student housing needs. The bill would require the working group to develop a statewide plan that identifies opportunities for intersegmental collaboration to build campus housing and informs future state funding considerations. Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and is currently awaiting a hearing date.

*AB 2301 (Soria) – Community colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program*

This bill would require the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program that authorizes select community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The bill would limit the pilot program to 10 community college districts statewide and would require the chancellor's office to identify and select eligible community college districts based on specified criteria. The bill would require the chancellor's office to develop a process designed to assist community college districts with nursing programs that are applying for national accreditation for the purpose of qualifying for the pilot program. The bill would require each participating community college district to give priority registration for enrollment in the pilot program to students with an associate degree in nursing from that community college district. The bill would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to conduct an evaluation of the pilot program to determine the effectiveness of the program and the need to continue or expand the program to be submitted to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2034. The bill would repeal these provisions as of January 1, 2036. Status: This bill was introduced on February 19<sup>th</sup> and is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.

*AB 2528 (Solache) – Community colleges: governing board member compensation*

Existing law requires the governing board of each community college district to establish, maintain, operate, and govern one or more community colleges. Existing law authorizes the compensation of board members that actually attend all meetings held by the governing board, not to exceed a specified amount from \$120 to \$1,500, inclusive, based on the number of full-time equivalent students in the community college district. This bill would increase the authorized compensation for community college governing board members that actually attend all meetings held by the governing board, not to exceed a specified amount from \$600 to \$4,500, inclusive, based on the number of full-time equivalent students in the community college district. Status: This bill was introduced on February 20<sup>th</sup> and is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.

*AB 2694 (Alvarez) – Community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program*

Existing law authorizes the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, in consultation with the California State University and the University of California, to authorize the establishment of community college district baccalaureate degree programs. Existing law prohibits a community college district baccalaureate degree program from offering a baccalaureate degree program or program curricula already offered by the California State University or the University of California. This bill would instead prohibit a community college district baccalaureate degree program from offering a baccalaureate degree program or program curricula substantially similar to a baccalaureate degree program offered by the California State University or the University of California within the geographic region served by the community college district, except where the California State University or the University of California does not enroll students from that geographic region in the same degree pathway or where documented unmet regional workforce needs justify the program. This bill would also require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to consult and seek feedback from the Chancellor of the California State University and the President of the University of California regarding proposed baccalaureate degree programs that may be substantially similar to California State University or University of California programs offered within the geographic region of the proposing community

college district. If the California State University or the University of California believes there is substantial similarity within the geographic region, the bill would authorize them to submit a written objection with supporting evidence, and upon receipt of the objection, would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to convene the applicant and the objector to establish a written agreement before the program is approved. Status: This bill was introduced on February 20<sup>th</sup> and is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.

*SB 960 (Cabaldon) – Community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program*

This bill would prohibit a community college district from offering a baccalaureate degree program or program curricula already offered by the University of California, or a campus of the California State University whose local admission area includes, or overlaps with, the territory of the community college district, unless the California State University program has been impacted for 3 consecutive years before the date the program is approved. Status: This bill was introduced on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and is eligible to be considered by a policy committee beginning March 5<sup>th</sup>.

*SB 1154 (Reyes) – Public contracts: best value procurement: community college districts*

This bill would authorize the governing board of a community college district to use, before December 31, 2030, a best value procurement method for bid evaluation and selection for public projects that exceed \$1,000,000. The bill would establish various requirements applicable to the use of the best value procurement method under this authorization. The bill would require a community college district to submit a report on the use of the best value procurement method, as specified, to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2030. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2031. Status: This bill has been referred to the Senate Education Committee and is currently awaiting a hearing date.

*SB 1262 (Archuleta) – Education finance: community colleges: general fund balances*

This bill would prohibit, commencing with the 2027–28 fiscal year, a community college district's annual unrestricted general fund balance for a fiscal year from exceeding 50% of its unrestricted general fund expenditures for that year, unless the community college district meets specified conditions. The bill would prohibit a community college district from transferring unrestricted general funds to another fund if the receiving fund has an existing balance of 33% or more of the community college district's unrestricted general fund expenditures for that fiscal year or if the transfer would cause the receiving fund to have a balance of 33% or more of the community college district's unrestricted general fund expenditures for that fiscal year. For a community college district that violates the above-described prohibitions, the bill would require the community college district to distribute the amount of the annual unrestricted general fund balance that exceeds 50% to nonsupervisory and nonmanagement employees of the community college district. Status: This bill has been referred to the Senate Education Committee and is currently awaiting a hearing date.

### **Congress Finalizes and President Signs Education and Labor Appropriations Bill**

On February 3, the House passed and the President signed [HR 7148](#), the appropriations minibus containing the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill, funding all the programs and agencies under them through the end of fiscal year 2026 (FY26).

The bill provides \$221 billion in discretionary funds and largely preserves or only slightly decreases prior funding levels for FY26. The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration will receive a slight increase to \$10.4 billion under the legislation. Under the Department of Education, Pell grants will be level funded at \$22.5 billion along with Federal Work Study at \$1.2 billion, and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program at \$910 million. Other funding includes a combined \$729.2 million for adult education programs.

Thus far, all of the bills contain more funding than was requested by the Administration when the President published his [budget request](#) in Spring, 2025. Congress also included policy language requiring the Administration report on drawdowns of the funding more frequently, and that the Administration expend the funds in a timelier manner than the prior year, in accordance with the intent of the bills themselves. The minibus also sets minimum staffing levels for certain offices within agencies, a measure meant to counter the types of mass layoffs seen under the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) last year.

### **DOEd Seeks to Open Accreditation Process to New Agencies**

On February 26, the Department of Education (DOEd) [announced](#) an [interpretive rule](#) designed to reduce the regulatory requirements to establish an accreditation agency and reduce regionalism in the accreditation process. DOEd also updated its accreditation landing [page](#) to reflect their policymaking intention.

DOEd argues the interpretive rule will create market-style competition for accrediting agencies and provide opportunities for new institutional and programmatic accreditors. The proposed changes include covering a wider range of activity in the lead up to DOEd recognition of an accrediting agency and shortening the basic eligibility review timeline for a new agency to 60 days. DOEd is also hoping to shorten the overall review process to six months.

Educators worry these changes could allow substandard programs to choose less stringent accrediting agencies, thereby diluting the quality of education students are receiving federal student aid to pay for. DOEd alleges accrediting agencies benefit from current regulations, and impose partisan ideological requirements on postsecondary institutions.

### **DOEd Continues Closure Efforts, Shifting Programs to Health and Human Services**

On February 23, the Department of Education (DOEd) [announced](#) another Interagency Agreement (IAA) with the Departments of State (DOS) and Health and Human Services (HHS). This is being seen as an expansion of the Administration's efforts to dismantle DOEd following a March, 2025 [Executive Order](#).

DOS will assume responsibility for a foreign gift reporting portal, while HHS will takeover administration of the Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV), School Safety National Activities, Ready to Learn Programming, Full-Service Community

Schools, Promise Neighborhoods, and Statewide Family Engagement Centers. Under current law, DOEEd has statutory responsibility for these programs and receives funding for them from Congress.

DOEd will retain oversight authority, though has continued to downsize its operations and integrate itself with the Department of Labor (DOL). This follows a [series](#) of IAA's [signed](#) last year with DOL, HHS, and DOS.

### **Pell Grants Face Fiscal Cliff, Requiring Congressional Intervention**

The Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan agency under the legislative branch, released an updated [baseline projection](#) in February for future Pell Grants, estimating a \$104-\$132 million dollar shortfall over the next decade despite the \$10 billion provided for the program in [HR 1](#), the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Pell Grants receive three types of federal funding, some from discretionary appropriations, other mandatory spending under the Higher Education Act (HEA), and a formula-based mandatory supplemental appropriation calculated from a variety of sources, including the discretionary spending funding level.

Further calculations [published](#) on February 20 by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, an anti-deficit advocacy group, indicate that Pell Grant amounts could begin decreasing in 2028 if Congress takes no further action. Congress has previously [modified](#) the HEA to account for shortfalls in addition to the formula-based supplemental. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget also predicted a higher funding gap based on the introduction of Workforce Pell Grants for short-term career and technical education programs pulling from the same funding account.

Congress has multiple options to resolve the shortfall, including increasing the discretionary appropriation amount and formula-based supplemental, providing another one-time infusion of funding, or changing program structure and eligibility by amending the HEA. The report is likely to spur some Congressional action.

### **Federal Government Names February as Career and Technical Education Month**

Multiple agencies and Congress declared February 2026 as Career and Technical Education Month. On February 27, the Secretaries of Education and Labor [proclaimed](#) the month, as did the [President](#) on February 13. [Senate Resolution 617](#) was passed by unanimous consent further cementing the celebrations.

These actions being seen as a reflection of bipartisan efforts to expand career and technical education, and potentially create momentum for Congress to explore reauthorizing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

### **Senate Democrats Ask Government Accountability Office to Investigate Interagency Agreements**

On February 19, a group of Senators led by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) sent a [letter](#) to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a legislative branch watchdog, [requesting](#) an investigation into and oversight over the Department of Education's (DOEd) Interagency Agreements (IAA) meant to effectuate the closure of DOEEd.

DOEd has signed at least nine IAAs [seeking](#) to comply with Executive Order (EO) [14242](#), titled Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities and signed in March 2025. The EO mandates the closure of DOEd to the maximum extent allowable by law.

The Senators expressed concern about DOEd transferring its statutory authorities elsewhere, opting to shift program administration to other agencies while maintaining an oversight role. The Senators requested the investigation cover funding delays, increased costs, and quality assurance for the affected programs.

### **DOL Opens Strengthening Community College Training Grants NOFO**

On February 17, the Department of Labor (DOL) [announced](#) the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) had [released](#) their Fiscal 2026 Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants (Round 6) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

The NOFO will fund a maximum of 10 projects at \$6.5 million a piece, with an award ceiling of \$10.5 million and a total of \$65 million available. The release emphasized the upcoming [implementation](#) of Workforce Pell Grants and previous [guidance](#) from DOL to state administrations emphasizing projects responsive to industry demand and projects that integrate other initiatives in DOL's [American Talent Strategy](#).

### **DOL Releases AI Literacy Framework**

On February 13, the Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) [announced](#) the [release](#) of their Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy Framework. This follows the Administration's [AI Action Plan](#) and other efforts across government to both integrate AI and cultivate a skilled workforce to rapidly expand the infrastructure needed to support AI systems.

DOL has also made [changes](#) to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) discretionary grants, placing additional emphasis on AI workforce development, skills acquisition, and integration in the classroom.

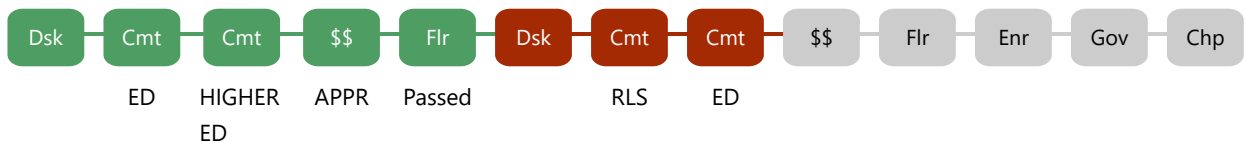
[🔗](#) **AB 65 Aguiar-Curry — School and community college employees: paid disability and parental leave.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Jun 18, 2025

In Committee Process | In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Location:** Senate Education



**Summary:**

AB 65 mandates that public school and community college employers provide up to 14 weeks of paid leave for employees unable to work due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or related medical conditions. This leave is designed to include both prenatal and postnatal periods if the employee is disabled. It prohibits the deduction of this leave from other accrued leave balances and requires employers to maintain health coverage during the leave. Additionally, it eliminates minimum work hour or service length requirements for eligibility.

**Position      Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 264 Carrillo — Veterans: benefits.**

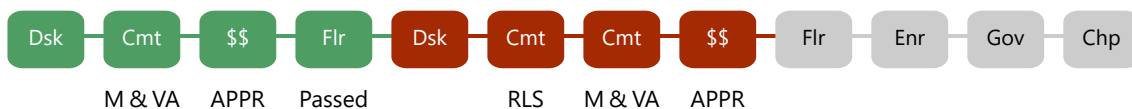
**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Sep 03, 2025

In Floor Process | Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator Archuleta.

In Floor Process | From special consent calendar.

**Location:** Senate Inactive



**Summary:**

AB 264 aims to amend existing law regarding educational benefits for dependents of veterans. Currently, dependents of totally disabled veterans are prohibited from receiving state educational

benefits if they are entitled to federal educational benefits or assistance from other governmental sources. This bill proposes to eliminate that prohibition, thereby allowing these dependents to access state educational benefits without conflicting with federal provisions.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

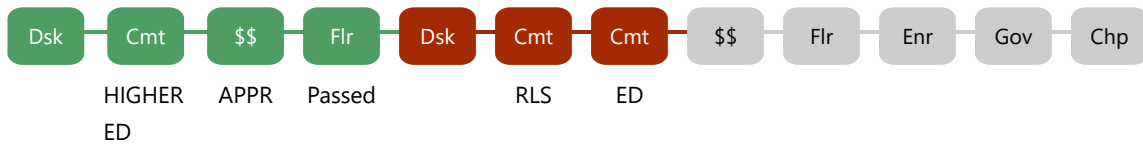
[🔗](#) **AB 402 Patel — Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program and the California Community College Expanded Entitlement Program.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Jun 18, 2025

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on ED.

**Location:** Senate Education



**Summary:**

AB 402 sets the maximum Cal Grant A and B tuition awards for independent institutions at \$9,358 for the 2024–25 academic year. For 2025–26, the awards will be \$9,708 or \$8,056 based on transfer agreements. It also eases entitlement award restrictions on students transferring to independent colleges from California community colleges.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

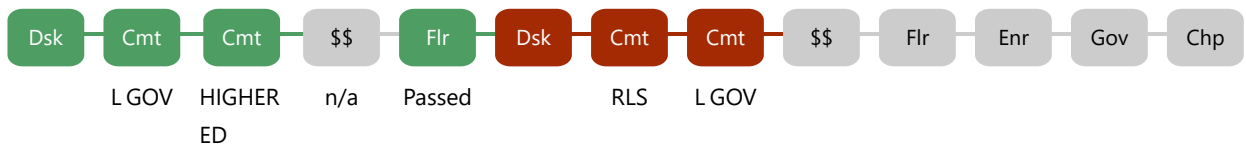
[🔗](#) **AB 409 Arambula — Open meetings: teleconferences: community college student body associations and student-run organizations.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Jun 27, 2025

In Committee Process | In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

**Location:** Senate Local Government



**Summary:**

AB 409 proposes to extend the sunset date to January 1, 2030, for California Community College student organizations to use alternate teleconferencing provisions. This extension ensures continued flexibility in meeting formats while prompting necessary compliance with public access regulations, supporting widespread accessibility and adaptability in modern educational governance.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

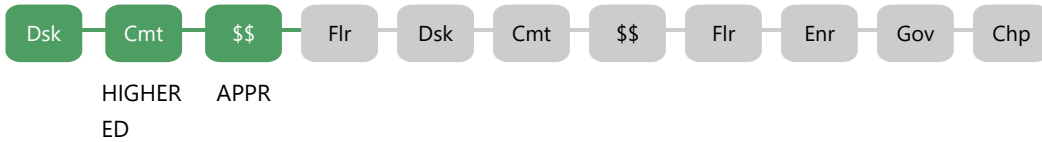
[AB 664 Alvarez](#) — Community colleges: baccalaureate degree program: Southwestern Community College District.

All Tracked Bills Workspace

Status: Jan 27, 2026

Pending Referral | In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: Senate Rules



Summary:

AB 664 permits the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to authorize Southwestern Community College District to offer up to four workforce-aligned baccalaureate degree programs. This initiative targets educational requirements in South San Diego County. An interim evaluation by the Legislative Analyst’s Office is due by July 1, 2030, and a final evaluation by July 1, 2034. The provisions are set to be repealed on January 1, 2035.

Position      Priority

—                      —

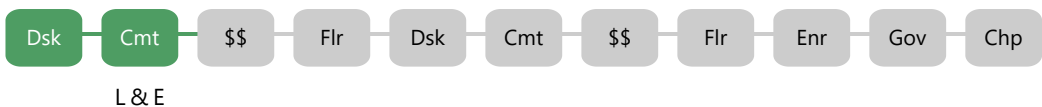
[AB 805 Fong](#) — Career Apprenticeship Bridge Program.

All Tracked Bills Workspace

Status: Jan 27, 2026

Pending Referral | In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: Senate Rules



Summary:

AB 805 aims to create the Career Apprenticeship Bridge Program, administered by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards. The program’s purpose is to facilitate and coordinate apprenticeships for individuals aged 16 to 24. It mandates the development of a youth apprenticeship data system and collaboration with educational bodies. Additionally, the division must report to the legislature by January 1, 2028, on barriers to employer participation, and maintain an online dashboard tracking participant outcomes by 2030.

Position      Priority

—                      —

[AB 972 Wilson](#) — Postsecondary education: discrimination: sex.

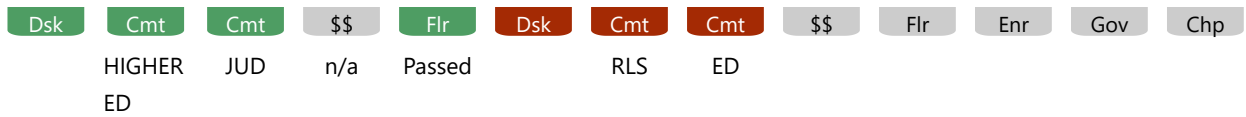
All Tracked Bills Workspace

Status: May 28, 2025

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on ED. and JUD.

Location: Senate Education





**Summary:**

AB 972 seeks to amend existing laws to include sex as a protected characteristic against discrimination in postsecondary educational programs. This protection extends to institutions receiving state financial assistance or catering to students eligible for state financial aid. The amendment underscores the commitment to equitable treatment across various characteristics, which include disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

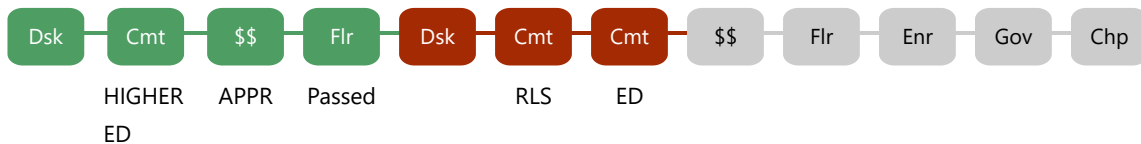
[🔗](#) **AB 1093 Solache — Public postsecondary education: California-Mexico Higher Education Development and Academic Exchange Program.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Jul 08, 2025

In Committee Process | In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Location:** Senate Education



**Summary:**

AB 1093 proposes a program facilitating an academic exchange between California and Mexico. It allows 400 students from California public universities to study in Mexico annually and vice versa, until January 1, 2032. The program depends on allocated funding and involves coordination between educational institutions in both jurisdictions.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 1171 Patel — Part-Time Community College Faculty Health Insurance Program.**

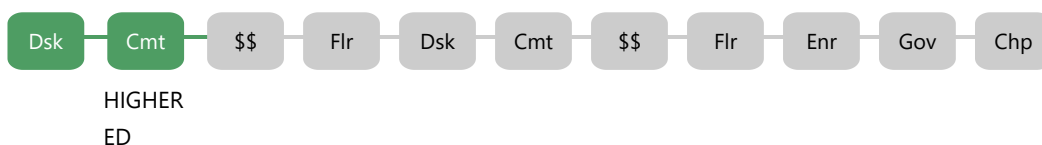
**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Jan 29, 2026

Pending Referral | In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Passed | Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 63. Noes 5. Page 3869.)

**Location:** Senate Rules



**Summary:**

AB 1171 revises the existing Part-Time Community College Faculty Health Insurance Program to include all part-time faculty purchasing their health insurance. The program mandates community

college districts reimburse these faculty members for their health insurance expenses. This legislative change aims to ensure equitable access to health benefits for part-time educators, allocating \$200 million annually to cover these costs, imposing additional duties on community college districts as a state-mandated local program.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

### [AB 1534 Irwin](#) — Student financial aid: federal Workforce Pell Grant program.

#### All Tracked Bills Workspace

**Status:** Feb 09, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on HIGHER ED. and L. & E.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



#### Summary:

Beginning July 1, 2026, this bill sets requirements for California educational institutions, such as the University of California and California State University, to participate in the federal Workforce Pell Grant program. Institutions must obtain authorization from a state entity and comply with the U.S. Department of Education's standards. The short-term educational programs must align with high-skill and high-demand industry sectors. The bill also involves the establishment of an advisory board for oversight and mandates confidentiality for student data.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

### [AB 1582 Ortega](#) — Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act: collective bargaining: unfair labor practices.

#### All Tracked Bills Workspace

**Status:** Feb 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on P. E. & R.

**Location:** Assembly Public Employment and Retirement



#### Summary:

AB 1582 seeks to amend the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act by targeting unfair labor practices in collective bargaining related to contracting out work. The bill makes it unlawful for higher education employers to ignore arbitration decisions by renewing or entering into new contracts that violate previous arbitration outcomes. It also prevents the Public Employment Relations Board from deferring repeat offenses to new arbitration proceedings. Violations are subject to civil penalties, and remedies must include legal fees and costs.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗 AB 1590 Ransom — California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: revised allocation formula.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on ED.

**Location:** Assembly Education



**Summary:**

Bill AB 1590 seeks to revise the allocation formula for the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program, ensuring full allocation of appropriated funds to program applicants starting from the 2027–28 fiscal year. The Superintendent, alongside the State Board of Education, must determine the allocation formula to guarantee complete distribution of funds annually. This revision aims to enhance the support for high-quality career technical education programs statewide by adjusting the existing allocation rules.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗 AB 1591 Michelle Rodriguez — California Podiatric Pipeline Program.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 17, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on HEALTH and HIGHER ED.

**Location:** Assembly Health



**Summary:**

The bill implements the California Podiatric Pipeline Program to foster careers in podiatric medicine and advance educational opportunities for California residents pursuing a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree. It allows the Department of Health Care Access and Information to utilize funds from the Health Professions Education Fund, award grants to colleges for program support, and mandates annual legislative reporting on student participation and residency opportunities in the field.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗 AB 1630 Caloza — Meet and confer: observation.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 17, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on P. E. & R.

**Location:** Assembly Public Employment and Retirement



**Summary:**

AB 1630 is designed to update the rules concerning negotiations in higher education employment. It allows members of a bargaining unit to remotely and passively observe sessions held for the purpose of meeting and conferring about a memorandum of understanding. However, these members are not entitled to receive compensation or reassigned time for observing such sessions unless there is an agreement between the parties involved.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 1636 Solache — Cerritos Community College District: data sharing.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 17, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on HIGHER ED. and ED.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

The bill permits the Cerritos Community College District to enter into data sharing agreements with educational partners, facilitating seamless student transition from high schools to community colleges under the California College Promise and College and Career Access Pathways programs. This initiative, effective until 2032, aims to streamline enrollment processes and will be evaluated for effectiveness by 2031 through a report to the Legislature.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 1641 Jackson — Postsecondary education: segments: tribal colleges and universities.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 09, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on HIGHER ED.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

Bill AB 1641 focuses on enhancing postsecondary education by addressing and supporting tribal colleges and universities. This includes facilitating better integration and cooperation between existing educational segments and these institutions to boost educational access and opportunities for tribal communities.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 1694 Carrillo — California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: renewal grants.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 17, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on ED.

**Location:** Assembly Education



**Summary:**

AB 1694 proposes changes to the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program, requiring renewal grants for recipients for an additional three years if criteria are met. Starting fiscal year 2026-27, it mandates up to 90% of funding for renewal grants and up to 10% for new applicants, subject to conditions from the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 1829 Fong — Community colleges: CalWORKs Recipients Education Program: services.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 23, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on HIGHER ED. and HUM. S.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

AB 1829 aims to expand the services provided under the CalWORKs Recipients Education Program at California Community Colleges. It proposes adding direct aid for ongoing basic needs as a special service. Additionally, it allows waiving the employer contribution requirement for work-study positions, promoting economic mobility and self-sufficiency for CalWORKs recipients.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 1845 Krell — Student safety: human trafficking.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 12, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 14.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 1845 mandates the inclusion of human trafficking information in employee training at California's postsecondary institutions. It requires these institutions to compile crime reports that include trafficking incidents and maintain updated agreements with law enforcement for trafficking investigations. Institutions must adopt comprehensive anti-trafficking policies by 2027. This encompasses a state-mandated program with potential reimbursement for associated costs.

Position      Priority

—                      —

[🔗 AB 1858 Lowenthal — California Community Colleges and California State University: Joint Associate Degree Pilot Program.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 23, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on HIGHER ED.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

AB 1858 mandates a pilot program where California Community Colleges and California State University (CSU) collaborate to offer a joint associate degree in general education. This is aimed at former CSU students who completed requirements for an associate degree but are not enrolled in CSU. The program will start with Long Beach Community College District and CSU Long Beach, with options to expand to additional sites. A report evaluating the program's effectiveness is due by January 1, 2032, with the program ending on June 30, 2032.

Position      Priority

—                      —

[🔗 AB 1920 Mark González — Community colleges: California College Promise: fee waiver eligibility.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on HIGHER ED.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

AB 1920 modifies the California College Promise fee waiver eligibility criteria by ensuring that a certificate awarded as part of a course sequence leading to an associate degree does not make a student ineligible for the fee waiver. This aims to expand access to fee waivers for more students, maintaining the support for first-time and returning community college students who are enrolled in at least 12 units or qualify as "full-time," given they submit necessary financial aid applications.

Position      Priority

—                      —

[🔗 AB 1928 Fong — Sex equity: sexual harassment complaints.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on HIGHER ED. and JUD.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



Dsk Cmt \$\$ Flr Dsk Cmt \$\$ Flr Enr Gov Chp

**Summary:**

AB 1928 focuses on sex equity, specifically addressing procedural protections in handling sexual harassment complaints within postsecondary institutions receiving state financial assistance. It mandates grievance procedures to allow each student involved to have both a support person and an advisor during all stages of the complaint process. This adjustment expands existing protections and imposes new programmatic duties on community college districts.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 1982 Lowenthal — On-sale general public premises: drug testing devices.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on G.O.

**Location:** Assembly Governmental Organization

Dsk Cmt \$\$ Flr Dsk Cmt \$\$ Flr Enr Gov Chp

**Summary:**

The bill extends indefinitely the requirement for on-sale general public premises (Type 48) license holders to offer drug testing devices for detecting controlled substances in drinks. It removes the sunset clause set for January 1, 2027. License holders must sell these devices at a reasonable cost based on wholesale prices and display notices about their availability. The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control must provide information regarding these devices on its website.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 1985 Irwin — Pupil and student health: athletic coaches: mental health training.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on HEALTH and ED.

**Location:** Assembly Health

Dsk Cmt \$\$ Flr Dsk Cmt \$\$ Flr Enr Gov Chp

**Summary:**

AB 1985 requires the California Surgeon General to compile a list of mental health training programs for athletic coaches by July 1, 2027. California State University, community colleges, and private institutions must ensure athletic coaches complete approved mental health training. The legislation, known as Sarah Shulze's Law, aims to enhance mental health awareness and competency within educational athletics, potentially adding state mandates and related reimbursements if costs are imposed on local agencies.

**Position**      **Priority**

— —

[AB 2017 Haney — State holidays: Eid.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on G.O. and P. E. & R.

**Location:** Assembly Governmental Organization



**Summary:**

Bill AB 2017 aims to include "Eid al-Fitr" and "Eid al-Adha" as designated state holidays. This proposal allows community colleges and public schools the option to close on these dates. The bill mandates excused absences for students observing these holidays, and permits state employees to use leave hours for the observance. Should costs be mandated by the state, reimbursement will be managed per existing statutory provisions.

Position	Priority
—	—

— —

[AB 2019 Gipson — Community colleges: deported or detained faculty.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 18, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 20.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

Bill AB 2019 focuses on community college faculty who are deported or detained due to immigration enforcement. The legislation mandates that colleges allow these faculty members, if deported after January 1, 2027, to continue their instruction remotely, using distance education or other available digital platforms. The bill implies a financial impact, as it requires reimbursement to local agencies if costs are incurred due to the state-mandated program. This initiative seeks to ensure educational continuity and maintain educational services despite the challenges posed by federal immigration actions.

Position	Priority
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[AB 2053 Ta — Community colleges: baccalaureate degree program: Coast Community College District.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on HIGHER ED.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

This bill permits the Coast Community College District to offer a workforce-aligned cybersecurity baccalaureate degree program at Coastline College. The Legislative Analyst’s Office must conduct and present interim and final evaluations of the program to the Legislature and Governor by respective deadlines. The bill anticipates a repeal of its provisions by 2035.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2092 Bonta — Early Childhood Integrated Data System.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 19, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 21.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

The bill proposes creating a statewide Early Childhood Integrated Data System under the State Department of Social Services. Its purpose is to consolidate data across programs servicing children from birth to five years. Additionally, it mandates the formation of an Interagency Early Childhood Data Task Force to oversee development and execution. The task force is required to report annually to the Legislature on progress, and the department is instructed to establish data-sharing agreements with certain state entities while collecting specified data.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2114 Bryan — Public postsecondary education: nonresident tuition fee exemption: educational asylum program.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 19, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 21.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2114 addresses nonresident tuition fees within California’s public postsecondary education system. It proposes allowing institutions to establish an educational asylum program with collaboration from various educational bodies and the State Department of Education. The goal is to exempt transfer students who have been granted educational asylum status from paying nonresident tuition, starting in the 2027-28 school year. Institutions will be required to charge only

resident tuition for these students, contingent on their residency in a state identified as restricted on a maintained list.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2121 Berman — Community colleges: current expense of education: exclusions.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on HIGHER ED.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

AB 2121 enables California community college districts to exclude specific local unrestricted expenditures from being counted towards their mandatory education spending for five years following the 2025-26 fiscal year. This applies if federal discretionary grants, previously used for student support, are terminated. Districts must certify eligibility annually, and this provision will remain inoperative after July 1, 2031, or upon restoration of federal funding.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2136 Pacheco — Community colleges: baccalaureate degree program: Cerritos Community College District.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on HIGHER ED.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

The bill permits the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to authorize Cerritos Community College District to offer up to three applied baccalaureate degree programs in public safety management, paralegal studies, and automotive technology. Each program must respond to regional workforce demands, involve collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and meet specific requirements. The Chancellor of Community Colleges is tasked with monitoring these programs and may report results to the Legislature.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2142 Garcia — School districts: community college districts: short-term employees: classified service.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 19, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 21.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

The bill mandates school and community college districts to classify short-term employees into the classified service if they work beyond 75% of a school year, or separate and are rehired. It modifies existing employment laws ensuring additional protections for short-term employees regarding their job classification within educational districts.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2176 Fong — Student housing: intersegmental working group.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 02, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on HIGHER ED.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

AB 2176 proposes forming a working group comprising representatives from the California State University, California Community Colleges, and the University of California to address student housing needs. This group will evaluate unmet housing demands, coordinate intersegmental housing initiatives, and guide future state funding for campus housing projects, ultimately fostering collaboration among higher education segments in California.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2178 Quirk-Silva — Community colleges: county probation departments: instructional service agreements.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 20, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

The bill enables community colleges to enter agreements with county probation departments to offer academic and vocational education at juvenile justice facilities. It broadens educational opportunities for incarcerated youth by allowing non-home community colleges to step in if the home community college cannot provide needed courses within a set timeframe. This legislative

approach aims to enhance educational access and equity within juvenile justice systems, facilitating better reintegration and support for continued education.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2203 Tangipa — Public postsecondary education: priority registration: veterans and dependents of veterans: federal GI Bill.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 20, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2203 mandates California State University campuses and community colleges, and requests University of California campuses, to give priority enrollment to students receiving fee waivers due to veteran connections or using GI Bill benefits, starting in the 2028-29 academic year. This initiative aims to enhance educational access for veterans and their dependents.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2212 Bauer-Kahan — Postsecondary education: sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies: student orientation and training.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 20, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2212 proposes to enhance the sexual harassment policies in postsecondary education by requiring institutions to prohibit the non-consensual public disclosure of digitized explicit material as sexual exploitation. Additionally, the bill mandates financial aid for students victimized by such disclosures, promotes research on campus harassment, and revises harassment and intimidation policy implementations.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2236 Berman — Postsecondary education: articulation agreements.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 20, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

The bill mandates the establishment of a streamlined articulation agreement using common course numbering templates between University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges, effective by July 2027. It aims to replace individual course reviews for community college transfers, supported by reports made publicly available on progress. The bill includes provisions for state reimbursement of mandating costs to local agencies, consistent with the requirements of the California Constitution.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2251 Celeste Rodriguez — Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program: cost of attendance.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 20, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

The bill AB 2251 aims to enhance the Cal Grant Program by requiring eligible postsecondary institutions to develop cost of attendance policies in line with federal standards. This measure seeks to ensure more accurate and adjustable cost information, helping to streamline and improve the financial aid process for students seeking Cal Grant awards.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2301 Soria — Community colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 20, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

This bill mandates the development of a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program by the Chancellor of California Community Colleges, allowing select community colleges to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The pilot is limited to ten districts, prioritizing students with associate nursing degrees. An evaluation will assess program effectiveness by 2034, with provisions set to repeal in 2036.

Position      Priority

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2345 Bains — Student loans: medical and nursing students: California Health Care Workforce Supplemental Loan Program.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 20, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2345 introduces the California Health Care Workforce Supplemental Loan Program, providing financial assistance akin to federal loans for medical and nursing students. Managed by the Student Aid Commission, it ensures eligible students at accredited institutions gain access to necessary funds, maintaining parity with federal loan programs available before January 20, 2025. The program stipulates equivalent financial terms to current federal Direct PLUS Loans, with exceptions as deemed necessary for program administration. A supplemental loan fund will be established in the State Treasury to support this initiative.

Position      Priority

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2374 Fong — Postsecondary education: Designation of California Asian American- and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 20, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

The bill creates a designated title for institutions in California excelling in serving Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander (AANAPI) students within CSU, UC, and community colleges. It mandates a governing board to oversee designation applications and requires an entity to manage the process. Designations are valid for five years.

Position      Priority

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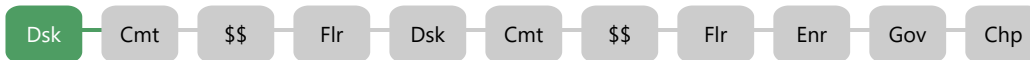
[🔗](#) **AB 2417 Zbur — Community colleges: part-time faculty: retirement.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2417 mandates the Chancellor's office of California Community Colleges to develop informative materials about retirement options for part-time faculty, including the Defined Benefit Program, Cash Balance Benefit Program, and social security. It ensures temporary employees in community college districts have the option to join retirement programs, potentially imposing new local district duties and state reimbursement obligations.

**Position**      **Priority**

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[🔗](#) **AB 2422 Caloza — Student financial aid: delayed financial aid awards: extensions.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2422 mandates California State Universities, community colleges, and private postsecondary institutions extend enrollment and financial deadlines for students whose aid is delayed due to uncontrollable factors, starting in the 2027–28 academic year. This initiative imposes new duties on community colleges, constituting a state-mandated local program. Additionally, reimbursement procedures for costs incurred due to these mandates are outlined.

**Position**      **Priority**

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[🔗](#) **AB 2436 Fong — Public postsecondary education: tuition and fees: Team USA student athletes.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

The bill proposes to extend resident classification indefinitely for Team USA athletes training in California, removing the current expiration of July 1, 2032. This change allows these athletes to benefit from in-state tuition and fees at public postsecondary institutions, applying to the University of California contingent upon regent approval. It also mandates state reimbursement for costs incurred by local agencies and school districts due to this extension.

Position      Priority

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[🔗](#) **AB 2466 Fong — Strong Workforce Program: work-based learning opportunities: regional consortia.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2466 seeks to extend the use of Strong Workforce Program funds to directly support students and employers through paid work-based learning via regional consortia, not just through individual community college districts. The bill emphasizes revising policies by June 2026 to maximize these opportunities, enhancing employability and employment outcomes.

Position      Priority

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[🔗](#) **AB 2523 Fong — Public postsecondary education: governing bodies: biography and contact information.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2523 mandates that the California State University and California Community Colleges, and requests the University of California, post the name, email, phone number, mailing address, and a short biography of each governing body member on their respective websites. This initiative aims to ensure transparency and foster accountability by making governing body members' contact information accessible to the public, thereby enhancing the public's ability to engage with the governing processes.

Position      Priority

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[🔗](#) **AB 2528 Solache — Community colleges: governing board member compensation.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



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**Summary:**

AB 2528 seeks to adjust the compensation structure for the governing board members of California Community Colleges. It proposes a significant increase in the financial recompense for board members attending all meetings, raising the upper limit from \$600 to \$4,500, determined by the full-time equivalent student count in each district. This change intends to reflect and possibly augment the responsibilities undertaken by board members in line with educational administration needs.

**Position**      **Priority**

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[🔗](#) **AB 2660 Alvarez — Public postsecondary education: intersegmental partnerships: STEM education.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2660 seeks to form the Cal-Bridge Program, a collaboration between California's public higher education institutions, aiming to support diverse undergraduates in STEM fields toward obtaining PhDs and becoming academic or industry leaders. Additionally, the bill introduces the ENLACE Program to assist high school and college students in preparing for STEM education opportunities and careers within California. Both initiatives emphasize resource allocation, research opportunities, and financial support, facilitating seamless transitions along educational pathways for promising STEM scholars.

**Position**      **Priority**

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[🔗](#) **AB 2694 Alvarez — Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2694 addresses public postsecondary education by allowing community college districts to offer new baccalaureate programs. It prevents them from duplicating similar programs offered by the California State University or University of California within their region, unless there are unmet regional workforce needs or other universities do not serve the region. The bill mandates

consultation with state university leaders to identify potential program overlaps, with a procedure for resolving objections through written agreements.

**Position**      **Priority**

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[🔗](#) **AB 2766 Ahrens — Public postsecondary education: student housing: foster youth and homeless youth.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

Bill AB 2766 expands priority enrollment and housing accommodations in California's public postsecondary education systems, specifically for former and current foster and homeless youth. It mandates that California Community Colleges, the California State University, and, conditionally, the University of California, prioritize these groups in student housing. Additionally, it requires these institutions to include identification questions in applications, defer housing costs, and provide information on priority benefits, aiming to improve educational support for these vulnerable populations.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **AB 2768 Ahrens — Student financial aid: deferment of fees and costs: foster youth.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 21, 2026

Pending Referral | From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

AB 2768 mandates California State University, community colleges, and private postsecondary institutions receiving state financial aid to defer enrollment fees for foster youth until they receive their financial aid. The University of California is requested to do the same. It acknowledges the financial burden imposed on local educational agencies and outlines reimbursement procedures should the bill incur state-mandated costs as determined by the Commission on State Mandates.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[🔗](#) **ACR 40 Fong — Student financial aid: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Sep 13, 2025

In Floor Process | Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator Grayson.

**Location:** Senate Inactive

**Summary:**

ACR 40 addresses the importance of protecting the data provided by students and their families when applying for financial aid through the FAFSA. It highlights concerns that unauthorized disclosure of this information could lead to adverse actions against undocumented individuals. The decline in FAFSA applications is attributed to fears surrounding data privacy and potential immigration consequences, underscoring the need for legislative assurance of data protection.

**Position**      **Priority**

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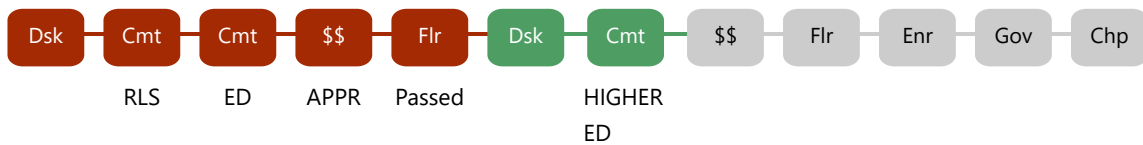
[SB 226 Cabaldon](#) — **Community colleges: territory transfers between districts.**

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Jul 09, 2025

In Committee Process | July 8 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Location:** Assembly Higher Education



**Summary:**

SB 226 allows the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to approve territory transfers between community college districts either on its initiative or through petitions from local governing boards. The bill ensures that transfers comply with existing laws, protecting the classification of academic employees and requiring agreements that outline fund and property allocations associated with the transfers. This aims to streamline district organization while upholding educational standards and employee rights.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[SB 308 Seyarto](#) — **Community colleges: audits: reports.**

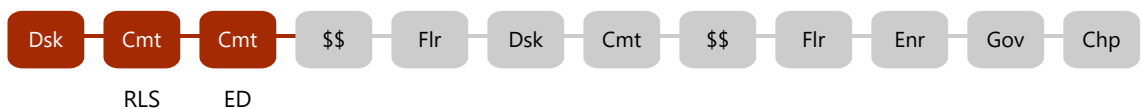
**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Jan 26, 2026

Pending Referral | In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Passed | Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 39. Noes 0. Page 3286.) Ordered to the Assembly.

**Location:** Assembly Floor



**Summary:**

SB 308 requires the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to report fiscal condition and audit exception details to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, and beginning in the

2027–28 fiscal year, to submit a combined report to several stakeholders. It aims to enhance transparency and accountability by expanding the audience for the fiscal assessments and corrective actions associated with community college districts.

**Position**      **Priority**

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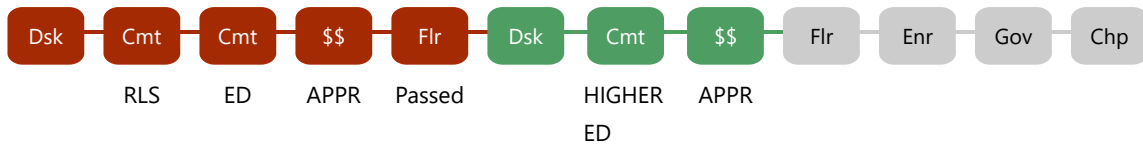
[SB 323 Pérez — Student Aid Commission: California Dream Act application.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Aug 29, 2025

In Committee Process | August 29 hearing postponed by committee.

**Location:** Assembly Appropriations



**Summary:**

SB 323 proposes modifications to the California Dream Act application and its grant processing systems for use by all eligible students by the 2026–27 financial aid cycle. It demands collaboration with educational segments to optimize federal aid access while making students aware of their application choices.

**Position**      **Priority**

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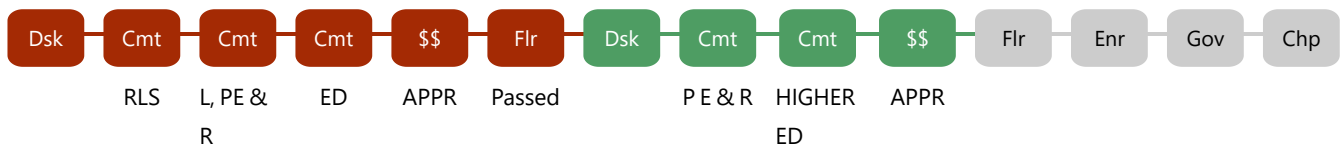
[SB 494 Cortese — Charter schools: establishment prohibition and renewal procedures.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Sep 13, 2025

In Floor Process | Ordered to inactive file on request of Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry.

**Location:** Assembly Inactive



**Summary:**

SB 494 prolongs the ban on authorizing new charter schools with nonclassroom-based education until January 1, 2027, modifying the prior expiration date of January 1, 2026. It also extends current charter renewal standards for an extra year, delaying the change to new evaluation criteria until 2027. These adjustments impose new responsibilities on local educational agencies overseeing charter schools.

**Position**      **Priority**

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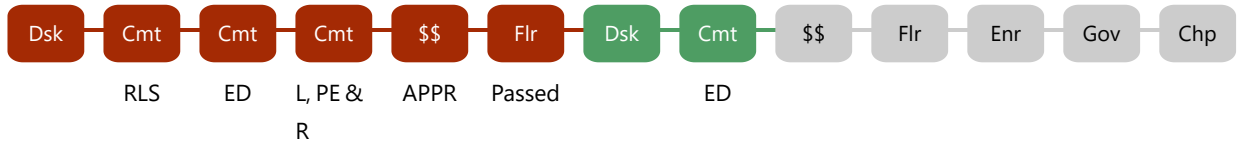
[SB 845 Pérez — Pupil instruction: career technical education, career education, and apprenticeships.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Jun 25, 2025

In Committee Process | July 2 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Location:** Assembly Education



**Summary:**

SB 845 focuses on career technical education by limiting criminal background checks to those employees who directly mentor or instruct students. Additionally, it instructs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish model curriculum standards for career technical education, incorporating feedback from educators and industry experts. This initiative includes a provision for revisiting these standards every five years to ensure they remain relevant and effective.

**Position**      **Priority**

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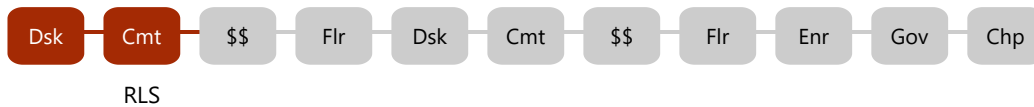
[SB 968 Becker](#) — Community colleges: San Mateo County Community College District.

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 11, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on ED.

**Location:** Senate Education



**Summary:**

Bill SB 968 pertains to the San Mateo County Community College District, allowing it to continue using local funds to provide fee waivers for students with significant financial needs beyond the existing provisions that expire in 2028. This extends support for local students not fully covered by other state college tuition waivers, maintaining the district's ability to support its residents' educational costs indefinitely. Additionally, it repeals an obsolete reporting requirement related to this policy.

**Position**      **Priority**

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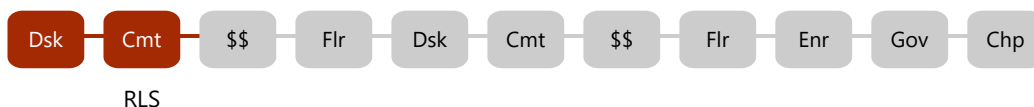
[SB 975 Ochoa Bogh](#) — Nursing schools and programs: faculty members, directors, and assistant directors.

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 11, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on B. P. & E.D.

**Location:** Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development



**Summary:**

SB 975 revises requirements for the approval of faculty members and directors in nursing schools. It mandates the Board of Registered Nursing to approve applicants meeting specific criteria and, if necessary, submit a remediation plan. This ensures compliance with regulatory standards, allowing instructors to teach under guidance and strengthening the faculty approval process within California's nursing education programs.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[SB 1101 Pérez — Postsecondary education: sharing personal information: notice.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Feb 26, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on ED. and P., D.T., & C.P.

**Location:** Senate Education



RLS

**Summary:**

California's SB 1101 requires educational institutions to notify faculty, staff, and students if their personal information is to be shared with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights during investigations or compliance actions. The sharing of personal data is permissible only if mandated by federal or state law. Notifications must detail the types of personal information disclosed. This bill imposes new duties on community college districts and requires state reimbursement for any state-mandated costs.

**Position**      **Priority**

—                      —

[SB 1114 Cabaldon — Data collection: sexual orientation, gender identity, and intersex status: disclosure.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 04, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on G.O. and P., D.T., & C.P.

**Location:** Senate Governmental Organization



RLS

**Summary:**

SB 1114 mandates non-disclosure of personally identifiable information regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, and intersex status (SOGISC) collected by California public entities, prohibiting its release outside state government. Exceptions exist for essential purposes, and infractions are subject to penalties under the Information Practices Act of 1977. California educational institutions must ensure compliance, expanding the scope of existing privacy laws. This legislative effort emphasizes safeguarding individual privacy against unauthorized data sharing and infers protections against privacy violations involving transgender and intersex individuals.

Position      Priority

—                      —

[SB 1255 Reyes](#) — Postsecondary education: Designation of California Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

All Tracked Bills Workspace

Status: Mar 04, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on ED. and G.O.

Location: Senate Education



RLS

Summary:

SB 1255 proposes the creation of a governing board to designate campuses as California Hispanic-Serving Institutions. This initiative aims to acknowledge and support postsecondary institutions excelling in educating Latino students. The bill outlines a process for campuses to apply for this designation, which, once granted, is valid for five years. This initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance educational resources and opportunities for Latino students across California's diverse educational segments.

Position      Priority

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[SB 1262 Archuleta](#) — Education finance: community colleges: general fund balance.

All Tracked Bills Workspace

Status: Mar 04, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on ED.

Location: Senate Education



RLS

Summary:

SB 1262 addresses the management of general fund balances within California community college districts. It mandates that, starting in the 2027–28 fiscal year, these districts' unrestricted general fund balances must not exceed 50% of their expenditures. Further, it restricts fund transfers that would result in fund balances exceeding 33% of expenditures. Violations of these rules require excess funds to be distributed to specific district employees, imposing new operational requirements on the districts.

Position      Priority

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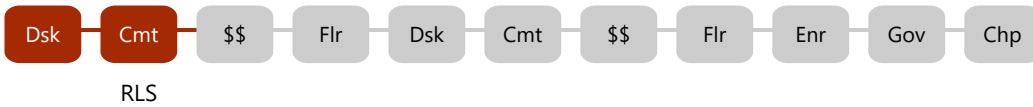
[SB 1328 Cervantes](#) — Public postsecondary education: Equity in Higher Education Act: campus contact.

All Tracked Bills Workspace

Status: Mar 04, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Com. on ED.

**Location:** Senate Education



**Summary:**

SB 1328 addresses the Equity in Higher Education Act, emphasizing equality in state postsecondary institutions regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. It mandates that California State University Trustees, University of California Regents, and the governing boards of community colleges designate a campus contact for issues related to LGBTQ+ faculty, staff, and students. This designation extends to satellite and branch campuses to ensure comprehensive support across all educational facilities.

**Position**      **Priority**

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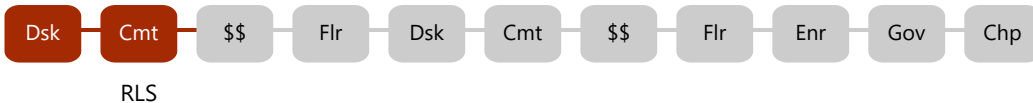
[SB 1351 Arreguín — California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009: exemptions: Alameda County campus closures.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 04, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on B. P. & E.D. and ED.

**Location:** Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development



**Summary:**

SB 1351 seeks to amend the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 by providing exemptions for nonprofit private postsecondary institutions that assume operational control of existing campuses in Alameda County facing imminent closure. The bill mandates institutions to give a minimum 24-month notice before ceasing operations. It emphasizes legislative actions tailored specifically for Alameda County's educational institutions, addressing potential campus closure issues.

**Position**      **Priority**

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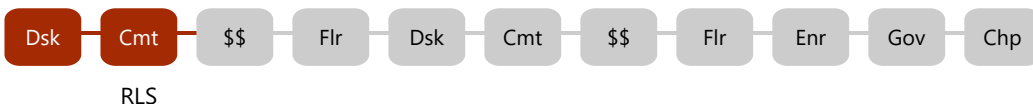
[SB 1374 Niello — Restraining orders: educational institutions.](#)

**All Tracked Bills Workspace**

**Status:** Mar 04, 2026

In Committee Process | Referred to Coms. on JUD. and ED.

**Location:** Senate Judiciary



**Summary:**

The bill authorizes administrative officers of postsecondary institutions to seek temporary restraining orders against unlawful violence or threats against their institutions. It includes new provisions for conduct such as phone calls or correspondence, aimed at protecting the educational environment's safety.

**Position**      **Priority**

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## AB 2053

### Assemblyman Tri Ta

#### Community Colleges: Coastline Baccalaureate degree program: cybersecurity

##### **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:**

AB 2053 would authorize the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges (CCC) to allow the Coast Community College District to offer a workforce-aligned baccalaureate degree program in cybersecurity at Coastline College.

##### **REASONS FOR THE BILL:**

A thriving technology industry is helping to fuel California's economy. As the technology sector grows, and traditional businesses incorporate increasingly greater levels of technology into their operations, a common threat that connects all of California's growing economic sectors is cybersecurity. Increasing reliance on technology, artificial intelligence, and online-based tools, create vulnerabilities and threats that companies must mitigate against.

California has a critical need for trained cybersecurity workers, with over 81,000 open positions across the private and public sectors. As a top state for cyber job demand, the workforce shortage is driven by rapid industry growth, with roles projected to grow 15% through 2034.

Like the rest of the world, companies operating across all industries are having difficulty hiring for roles in this critical sector. There are currently an insufficient number of four-year institutions that offer a baccalaureate degree specifically in cybersecurity, even though there is high demand for cybersecurity workers. A number of California community colleges, including Coastline College, are well-positioned to quickly expand their existing Associate Degree programs so that students can get the educational experience employers are seeking, at an affordable price, and move into the workforces.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

SB 850 (Block, 2014) laid the groundwork for the Board of Governors of CCC, in consultation with the California State University (CSU) and the University of California

(UC), to establish a statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program at no more than 15 CCDs. After the successful establishment of programs under SB 850, the Legislature further refined the community college baccalaureate degree pilot program through the adoption of AB 927 (Medina & Choi, 2021). This measure made the original pilot program permanent, increased the number of authorized programs to as many as 30 new baccalaureate degrees per year, and revised the rules related to program review by CSU and UC.

The Coast Community College District, through Coastline College, currently offers students the opportunity to secure an Associate Degree in Cybersecurity. The current program curriculum includes cybersecurity fundamentals, operating system security, incident handling and response. This program helps prepare students for careers in the cybersecurity field, such as analysts and incident responders. The field of cybersecurity continues to grow and be in high-demand in Orange County and the areas surrounding the Coast Community College District. While some employment opportunities can be filled by individuals holding an Associate Degree, there are a large number of jobs that require a Baccalaureate Degree.

Currently, students at the Coastline College Program must transfer to other public, or private, institutions to pursue a higher degree. This often creates financial challenges for students transferring to more expensive institutions, and can result in delays in entering the workforce as many institutions offering cybersecurity degrees are impacted by the large number of students interested in the field.

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