



August 18, 2011

State Legislative Update

Overview

The Legislature has returned from summer recess to begin its marathon sprint through the final month of the 2011 Session. The Appropriations Committees in both houses are in the midst of considering a wide range of bills that must be acted upon by August 26, the last day for fiscal bills to be heard and reported to the floor. The final day of session is September 9. The Governor has until October 9 to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature and in his possession on or before September 9.

Members of the Legislature are increasingly aware of the impact budget cuts have on limiting access to a growing number of community college students, affordability, and the declining availability of student support services that enhance student success. Legislators are awaiting the recommendations from the Board of Governors Student Success Task Force that are intended to mitigate these problems. Meanwhile, legislators have shown interest in bills and policy issues that make strides in helping community college students succeed.

Key Legislation

The Legislature thus far has responded favorably to this year's Board of Governors sponsored legislative package. These bills include **AB 743 (Block)** Common Assessment, **AB 1056 (Fong)** Electronic Transcripts, and **AB 1029 (Lara)** Stand Alone Course Approval.

AB 743 (Block) and **AB 1056 (Fong)** are both part of the system's student success strategy. These bills both create efficiencies for the system through the use of innovative technology and most importantly make it easier for students to navigate the community college system. Both bills were referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File and will be acted upon by August 26. Please send support letters to the Senate Appropriations Committee urging support for these bills.

AB 1029 (Lara) is an important efficiency bills for the system and was signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 112, Statutes of 2011). This bill allows local colleges to continue approving stand-alone courses. These courses are not part of a specified program. Without enactment of AB 1029 the authority to approve stand-alone courses would have returned to the Chancellor's Office, and created a costly and time consuming state operations effort. The colleges are required to report course approvals to the Chancellor's Office by next year, at which time the Chancellor will provide a report to the Legislature.

There are also a series of bills moving through the legislative process that are important to monitor. **AB 194 (Beall)**, a measure supported by the Chancellor's Office, provides enrollment priority for foster youth or emancipated foster youth up to the age of 24 at a community college and a California State University campus. Former foster youth face significant barriers in accessing higher education resulting in low

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completion and high dropout rates. Another important bill, **AB 684 (Block)** permits a district to change from at-large to trustee area elections through a waiver process. The bill establishes implementation procedures for the waiver, including a requirement to secure a trustee board resolution supporting the change and approval by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. AB 684 is patterned after a K-12 waiver process that provides a cost-effective tool to help districts comply with the California Voting Rights Act of 2001, and avoid costly legal challenges. This bill is sponsored by the Community College League of California and is also supported by the Chancellor's Office.

Senate Bill 292 (Padilla) is a clean-up bill to *SB 1440*, the new transfer guarantee law. The bill currently requires the community colleges to accept credits earned at other community colleges toward the associate degree for transfer. While there are concerns with the mandate contained in the bill, the system supports of the concept. **AB 372 (R. Hernandez)** would require community colleges to grant college credit to veterans for academic instruction they received in the military. The system supports this concept but has concerns about the state mandate in the bill.

Other Issues

The Little Hoover Commission is continuing its review of the California Community College system. It is scheduled to convene its next hearing from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on August 24, 2011 at the Library and Courts II, Room 340, 900 N Street, Sacramento. The Commission members will discuss community college governance, statutes and regulations, finance and basic skills issues. The Commission's full report is expected to be released later this year.

The Senate Subcommittee on Education Policy Research recently held a hearing on July 27, 2011, to review the next steps in beginning the process for closing down the California Postsecondary Education Committee (CPEC). The main issues that were discussed focused on where to house CPEC's data base and the federally-funded Improving Teacher Quality Program.

The following report highlights and provides a brief analysis of major community college bills introduced this year. The bills are organized by topic. Attached you will also find the latest Community College Chancellor's Office matrix, which can also be found online on the Government Relations webpage: <http://www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/Divisions/GovRelations/tabid/231/Default.aspx>

Academic Affairs

AB 160 (Portantino) Concurrent Enrollment in Secondary School and Community College

Analysis / Summary: AB 160 allows a school district to enter into a partnership with a community college district to determine local concurrent enrollment policies for high school students, including the ability to establish enrollment priority status for concurrently enrolled students. The bill also permits a school district to authorize a student upon the recommendation of a Career Technical Education (CTE) dean or other appropriate community college administrator, to enroll in CTE courses at the college. The CTE provision applies to high school students attending partnership and non-partnership school districts. Current law requires a high school student to secure a principal's recommendation to attend at a community college.

Location: AB 160 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support

AB 288 (Fong) Community Colleges: Student Expulsion

Analysis / Summary: AB 288 would authorize the governing board or designee(s), of a district to deny, permit, or place conditions on the enrollment of an individual who has been expelled from a community college within the preceding 5 years, or who is undergoing expulsion procedures. AB 288 would grant districts authority to request pertinent discipline-related information from other collegiate institutions and mandates a response within 5 days. Finally, AB 288 requires a student who has been expelled from a collegiate institution within the preceding 5 years to inform the district at the time of application. The district governing board or designee(s) is required to hold a hearing before taking any action on such an individual.

Comments: AB 288 is nearly identical to AB 1400 of 2009 which was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger. The veto message directed the Chancellor's Office to work with the author on a policy solution to address the issues in the bill however; legal counsel determined that we lacked the authority to do so without legislation.

Location: AB 288 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support

AB 851 (Nestande) Distance Learning

Analysis / Summary: AB 851 defines distance learning as a course where a majority of the instruction is delivered through technology and where the student and instructor are in different locations for the purposes of data collection and reporting. It also requires the Chancellor's Office to report to the Legislature on workload and performance data for distance learning courses every two years beginning January 1, 2014. Finally, the bill requires the LAO to convene a work group composed of the LAO, legislative staff, and the Department of Finance (with input from CCC, CSU, & UC) to evaluate the establishment of a California Western Governors University.

Comments: According to the author's office, this bill was prompted by the October 2010 LAO report entitled "The Master Plan at 50: Using Distance Education to Increase College Access and Efficiency."

Location: AB 851 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee where it was placed on the Suspense File.

AB 1029 (Lara) Stand Alone Course Approval

Analysis / Summary: As amended, this bill will extend the authority provided to community college districts to approve instructional courses that are not a part of established educational programs by one year. These courses are known as "stand-alone" courses because they fall outside the traditional groupings of credit courses that culminate in degrees. Examples of these courses include: Literacy Skills I, Fundamentals of Fiber Optics, Piping Systems, Soil Testing and Inspection, etc. The courses are part of a new sequence that are not yet part of the academic program but could be included in the future.

Location: AB 1029 was signed by the Governor, Chapter 112, Statutes of 2011.

Position: Sponsor/Support

Accountability / Intersegmental / Coordination and Efficiency

AB 2 (Portantino) Postsecondary Education: Accountability

AB 2 would establish a new statewide postsecondary accountability framework to biennially assess and report on the state's system of higher education in meeting certain educational and economic goals. The framework would include 6 statewide policy questions to measure postsecondary performance.

Comments: The author plans to amend this bill by August 22 in light of the elimination of funding for CPEC. The intent of AB 2 is to provide a basis for state and local decision makers to establish and meet goals for California's higher education.

Location: AB 2 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and will be heard on August 22, 2011 in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

AB 743 (Block) Common Assessment

Analysis / Summary: AB 743 establishes a statewide common assessment system to place community college students in English, Mathematics, and English as a Second Language courses, and creates a pre-test application where students can take practice tests so that they are better prepared for their assessments and can consequently take transfer level courses sooner. Recent amendments also state that the provisions are contingent upon receipt of state, federal or philanthropic funding.

Comments: AB 743 avoids duplication of assessments at different campuses and allows students to take their test scores with them to any California Community College. The bill makes the purchase of tests more efficient by centralizing and therefore leveraging the state's purchasing power to negotiate a lower per unit test cost.

Location: AB 743 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Sponsor/Support

SB 885 (Simitian) Public Education Accountability

Analysis / Summary: SB 885 authorizes the Community College Chancellor's Office, CSU, UC, the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the Employment Development Department, and the CA School Information Services to enter into a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to develop a comprehensive data base for students from preschool through higher education (P-20).

Comments: The purpose of the bill is to bring the parties together so that the segments of higher education can coordinate their data systems with K-12 and each other.

Location: SB 885 passed the Senate and Assembly Committee on Appropriations, and was sent to the Assembly Floor and placed on the Consent Calendar.

Position: Support

Budget / Finance / Facilities

AB 216 (Swanson) Inmate Education Programs

Analysis / Summary: AB 216 would allow community colleges to receive full funding for credit courses offered in correctional institutions. Specifically, it would waive "open course" provisions for community college courses offered in state correctional facilities and would allow attendance hours generated by credit courses at all correctional facilities to be funded at the full credit rate.

Location: AB 216 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support

AB 285 (Furutani) Community Colleges: Property Tax Backfill

Analysis / Summary: AB 285 provides community colleges with an automatic funding backfill of property taxes, similar to the one currently in place for K-12 school districts. AB 285 removes funding uncertainty and avoids mid-year cuts to base programs when property tax revenues come in lower than the estimate provided for community colleges in the budget.

Location: AB 285 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Sponsor/Support

AB 478 (Hernandez) Community Colleges: Funding

Analysis / Summary: AB 478 would amend existing law that requires the Board of Governors to develop criteria for their annual budget request that is based on specified criteria, including the positive difference between the state unemployment rate and a rate of 5%. The bill would increase the community colleges annual statutory growth rate calculation by removing the 2% cap.

Comments: Currently, the law requires that we receive growth to accommodate new students based on two factors: 1) The year-to-year percentage change in California's adult population; and 2) the statewide unemployment rate above 5% and capped at 2%. This bill would amend statute by removing the 2% cap.

Location: AB 478 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support

SCA 5 (Simitian) Taxation: Educational Entities: Parcel Tax

Analysis / Summary: SCA 5 authorizes school districts, community college districts, or county offices of education to impose a parcel tax on real property by a 55% vote of the voters in the district or county. It defines "parcel tax" as a special tax imposed upon real property at a rate determined without regard to the property's value.

Comments: Currently it takes a two-thirds vote to impose parcel tax changes.

Location: SCA 5 passed the Senate Government and Finance Committee, and referred to the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments. SCA 5 is not scheduled to be heard.

Position: Support

Campus Safety

AB 620 (Block) Nondiscrimination and Training, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Analysis / Summary: AB 620 requires the CSU, and requests the UC Regents and community college districts, to establish policies on harassment, intimidation, and bullying to be included in the rules of student conduct related to gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. Each campus would be asked to designate a "point of contact" person to address the needs of LGBT students and provide demographic information to the LAO. The LAO would be encouraged to conduct an assessment of the campuses, develop recommendations, and publish their recommendations on their web site.

Comments: This bill was introduced in response to a June 2009 CPEC study entitled "Access & Equity for all Students: Meeting the Needs of LGBT Students." Recent amendments transferred the responsibilities of CPEC to the LAO.

Location: AB 620 passed the Assembly and Senate Committees on Education and Judiciary, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support

AB 795 (Block) Smoke-free Campuses

Analysis / Summary: AB 795 expands language to mandate that the California Community Colleges post signs denoting where smoking tobacco is prohibited and where it is permitted. AB 795 also grants the governing boards of the CCC's the authority to enact enforcement procedures, impose a fine for a first, second, or third offense and those that may occur thereafter and permits that students and staff be informed of smoking related policies. Finally, AB 795 makes it illegal to sell tobacco products on the campuses of a community college.

Location: AB 795 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Appropriations and was referred to the Senate Floor.

CTE / Green Jobs / Energy / Workforce Preparation

AB 554 (Atkins) Employment: Workforce Services

Analysis / Summary: This bill directs the California Workforce Investment Board and its local boards to develop a policy that establishes collaboration with community colleges to develop pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs in the geographic area.

Comments: According to the author's office, this bill is sponsored by State Building and Trades.

Location: AB 554 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and referred to the Senate Floor.

AB 848 (Campos) Apprenticeships

Analysis / Summary: AB 848 would require the Chancellor's Office to collect data on credits attained by apprentices. This requirement would only apply to building and construction trades programs that receive Reimbursement for Supplies and Instruction funds.

Comments: The bill is sponsored by multiple labor organizations. The goal is to provide potential apprentices with information and encourage more apprenticeship programs to offer credit. Chancellor's Office staff has indicated that a survey of the apprenticeship programs already exists and could be modified to meet requirements of the bill.

Location: AB 848 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

AB 1310 (Furutani) State Strategic Plan: Career Technical Education and Workforce Development

Analysis / Summary: This bill would require the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development to collaborate with the Chancellor's Office, California Workforce Investment Board, CSU, UC, CDE and other agencies on the development of a strategic plan for connecting education and workforce development.

Location: AB 1310 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Labor, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

AB 1330 (Furutani) CTE Course Requirements

Analysis / Summary: This bill gives high school students the option of using a career technical education (CTE) course to fulfill the existing high school requirement to take a course in visual or performing arts or foreign language, as specified.

Location: AB 1330 is in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and was placed on the Suspense File.

SB 698 (Lieu) Workforce Development: High Performance Boards

Analysis / Summary: This bill would require the Governor to establish, through the CA Workforce Investment Board, a process by which to identify high performing local boards. Only designated high performing boards would be eligible to receive state discretionary funds and grants. High performing local boards shall, among other things, demonstrate that the local planning process take into account the entire work force training pipeline for the local economy, including the local community college system.

Comments: This bill is sponsored by the State Building and Trades Council and the CA Labor Federation.

Location: SB 698 passed the Senate and passed the Assembly Committee on Appropriations on consent. It now moves to the Assembly Floor.

Dream Act / Immigration Issues/Registration Requirements

AB 130 (Cedillo) Student Financial Aid: Eligibility: California Dream Act of 2011

Analysis/Summary: This bill would provide persons who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition eligibility for student financial aid.

Comments: Amendments were taken to reduce the fiscal impact of the bill. These amendments removed provisions specifying the process and procedures for applying for aid, and the provision allowing persons attending and graduating from California technical schools and adult schools to be included in the exemption for nonresident tuition; provisions were shifted to AB 131 (Cedillo).

Location: AB 130 was signed by the Governor, Chapter 93, Statutes of 2011.

Position: Support

AB 131 (Cedillo) Student Financial Aid

Analysis/Summary: This bill changes existing law to require the establishment of procedures and forms that enable persons who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition to apply for, and participate in, all student financial aid programs administered by the state of California and higher education segments to the full extent permitted by federal law, except for Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards unless funding remains available after all eligible California students who are not exempt receive Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards.

Comments: This bill was amended to allow persons attending and graduating from California technical schools and adult schools, as well as high schools, to be included in the exemption for nonresident tuition; wording was directly shifted from AB 130 (Cedillo).

Location: AB 131 passed the Senate and Assembly Committee on Higher Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support

AB 844 (Lara) Student Government: Students Qualifying for Exemption from Nonresident Tuition

Analysis /Summary: This bill would add a provision to the Donahue Higher Education Act that would provide that a student exempt from paying nonresident tuition is eligible to serve in any capacity in student government at the California State University or the California Community Colleges and to receive any compensation, as defined, that is connected with that service to the full extent consistent with federal law.

Comments: Late last year the CSU Fresno Student Body President was identified as serving in student government as an AB 540 student. He had waived his compensation of approximately \$800 per month.

Location: AB 844 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Appropriations and was referred to the Assembly Floor.

Local Administration

SB 46 (Correa) Compensation Disclosure

Analysis / Summary: SB 46 requires local government officers and employees who file economic interest statements to annually file a compensation disclosure form which includes the following items: annual salary or stipend; local agency payments to the filer's deferred compensation or defined benefit plans; automobile and equipment allowances; supplemental incentive and bonus payments; and any local agency payments to the filer that are in excess of standard benefits for other employees. SB 46 would include, among others, elected or appointed officers of community college districts, community college presidents, community college vice presidents, and community college deputy vice presidents.

Comments: This bill was prompted by the scandal involving public employees from the City of Bell.

Location: SB 46 passed the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and was sent to the Senate Floor.

Pensions

SB 27 (Simitian) Public Retirement: Final Compensation: Computation: Retirees

Analysis / Summary: This bill would prohibit members of Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) who retire after January 1, 2013 from working (including part-time or under contract) for a PERS/STRS employer for 6 months after retirement. This bill specifies that if a STRS retiree earns compensation in violation of this requirement, his or her retirement allowance will be reduced by the amount of compensation earned in the prohibited period. This bill becomes operative for all active and future members of the retirement systems beginning July 1, 2012.

Comments: This bill institutes uniform laws for PERS and STRS retirement systems that will help to curtail an individual from taking extraordinary steps to enhance their retirement benefits also known as *spiking*. This provision would eliminate 'revolving door' practices in which some public employees retire on a Friday and return to the same job on Monday as a retired worker.

Location: AB 1310 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Public Employee Retirement, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Other

AB 684 (Block) Community College Districts: Trustee Elections

Analysis/ Summary: This bill authorizes a community college district to change to a trustee area election system through a waiver process. The bill requires a district to secure a board resolution supporting the change and approval of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. The bill includes a legislative mandate that the Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD implement a trustee area election.

Comments: The State Board of Education already approves similar waivers for K-12 districts. The waiver process allows a community college district to avoid the cost of an extra election cycle, because typically the districts are required to secure voter approval to change to the election system. The waiver offers districts a cost effective way to avoid expensive law suits stemming from non-compliance with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) of 2001. CVRA provisions make it difficult for a district to maintain at-large elections without the threat of legal challenges. While the other provisions of AB 684 are permissive for community college districts, the requirement to implement trustee area elections applies exclusively to the Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD and is a mandate. The mandate is not reimbursable because it is being proposed at the request of the local governing body upon which it would be imposed. Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD sent the Senate Appropriations Committee a letter indicating that it requested the introduction of AB 684's provisions regarding its CCD and acknowledged that it will bear all costs related to changing to a trustee area election system as specified in the legislation.

Location: AB 684 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Appropriations and was referred to the Senate Floor.

Position: Support

SB 8 (Yee) Public Records State Agency: Auxiliary Organizations

Analysis / Summary: SB 8 would apply provisions of the California Public Records Act (CPRA) to auxiliary organizations of the University of California and the California State University, as well local CCD

auxiliaries, and the official auxiliary to the Chancellor's Office, the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

Comments: This bill is similar to SB 330 (Yee) of 2010 and SB 218 (Yee) of 2009, both of which were vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger. UC and CSU were strongly opposed to prior versions of the bill, but have removed their opposition after negotiating amendments with the author and sponsor to protect donor anonymity. Proposed amendments for the Assembly Higher Education Committee will include the same protections for donors provided to the UC and CSU auxiliaries for local community college district auxiliaries, and the Foundation for California Community Colleges. According to the sponsor, and several CCDs, the CPRA already applies to auxiliary bodies established by local community college districts, and the local foundations have been operating under the CPRA.

Location: SB 8 passed the Senate and Assembly and was returned to the Senate for concurrence.

Position: Support

Student Fees and Affordability

AB 91 (Portantino) Community Colleges: Student Financial Aid

Summary / Analysis: This bill requires the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to establish a voluntary pilot program to increase student participation in state and federal financial aid programs. It also requires the Chancellor to provide information to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). The LAO would be required to report to the Legislature on the results of the program, and make recommendations for statewide expansion of the pilot program.

Comments: It is estimated that AB 91 would create minor increased costs for the Chancellor's Office for administering the pilot project.

Location: AB 91 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support

SB 451 (Price) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant C Awards

Analysis / Summary: SB 451 requires the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) to develop areas of occupational and technical training for which students may use Cal Grant C awards. The Commission would then give priority in granting Cal Grant C awards to students pursuing training in fields that meet two of the three following criteria: high employment need, high salary or wage projections, or high employment growth. It also calls for a review and update of these designated occupational areas at least every five years beginning in 2012. The Legislative Analyst's Office would be required to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the outcomes of the Cal Grant C program every other year beginning April 1, 2015.

Comments: The Appropriations Committee deemed this bill of minor or no fiscal impact to the State.

Location: SB 451 passed the Senate and Assembly Committee on Appropriations and was referred to the Assembly Floor.

SB 760 (Alquist) Postsecondary Education: The Cal Grant Program

Analysis / Summary: SB 760 authorizes the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to clarify reporting requirements adopted in the education trailer bill earlier this year, SB 70, Chapter 7, Statutes of

2011, through the CSAC regulatory process. Higher education institutions participating in the Cal Grant and Pell Grant programs are now required to provide student specific data regarding enrollment, persistence, and graduation for students, as well as job placement and wage data on graduates.

Comments: The additional regulations will increase reporting requirements for community colleges. If SB 760 is enacted, CSAC will begin developing new regulations in July 2011, and it is estimated the work will be completed in 12 to 18 months.

Location: SB 760 passed the Senate and Assembly Committee on Appropriations and was referred to the Assembly Floor.

Position: Support

Student Success and Transfer

AB 194 (Beall) Public Postsecondary Education: Priority Enrollment: Foster Youth

Analysis / Summary: This bill would require the California State University and California Community College districts, and requests the University of California, to grant priority registration for enrollment to foster youth or former foster youth. The bill defines foster youth as any person currently in foster youth care and former or emancipated foster youth up to age 24. This bill would impose a state mandated cost.

Location: AB 194 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support

AB 1056 (Fong) Electronic Transcripts

Analysis / Summary: This bill would create an incentive for community colleges to utilize electronic transcripts by December 2012. AB 1056 expedites the process of converting from paper-based transcripts to an electronic based system by leveraging one-time external funding to support initial start-up costs. Implementation of this bill is contingent upon receipt of federal funds or outside philanthropic grants.

Comments: Mailing paper-based transcripts is neither timely nor cost-effective. Paper-based transcripts often take weeks to be delivered and delay a student's enrollment in classes. Converting from a paper-based transcript to an electronic transcript system can save a college \$4 to \$10 per transcript by reducing paper consumption, operating costs, and postage. An electronic system would also give students the option to view their transcripts online. Recent amendments to the bill add a sunset date of 2015 to secure sufficient funding for e-Transcripts, and identify the Chancellor's Office as the designee for the disbursement of funds.

Location: AB 1056 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Education, and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Sponsor/Support

SB 292 (Padilla) Community Colleges: Transfers

Analysis / Summary: SB 292 requires the community colleges to accept course credit from other campuses. This practice is commonly referred to as reciprocity. Implementation of reciprocity among all 112 community college campuses contains significant costs and is a state mandate.

Comments: Recent amendments to SB 292 removed language that provided further clarification on the enrollment priority benefit for SB 1440 transfer students; however, this language is included in SB 940 (Lowenthal). Implementation of reciprocity is cost prohibitive because a common course numbering system doesn't exist for the 112 community colleges. Without a common course numbering system, course content reviews to determine course equivalencies would be necessary at each campus. This can be a time consuming process. The Chancellor's Office is working with the author to develop mutually accepted language for reciprocity.

Location: SB 292 passed the Senate and Assembly Committee on Higher Education, and was heard in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support

SB 940 (Senate Education Committee) Omnibus Education Bill

Analysis / Summary: SB 940 includes an amendment to SB 1440 (Padilla), Chapter 428, Statutes of 2010 that clarifies that veteran students continue to have priority enrollment.

Location: SB 940 passed the Senate and Assembly Committee on Higher Education, and was heard in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Veterans Issues

AB 372 (Hernandez) Public Postsecondary Education

Analysis / Summary: AB 372 requires the community colleges, as part of the matriculation process, to provide academic credit for prior college-level learning gained through military training. The bill requires prior learning assessment be determined by relevant faculty and related equivalent educational credit awarded that meets the standards of the American Council on Education (ACE), Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, or other equivalent standards for awarding academic credit. The colleges are required to implement these provisions only to the extent that reimbursement for the assessment is provided by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs or any other federal act establishing veteran's education benefits.

Comments: Fifty California Community Colleges are members of a consortium that uses the ACE guidelines. Prior versions of this bill created a state mandate for the sixty-two colleges that are not part of the consortium, but recent amendments remove and reduce costs related to assessments by requiring that costs be paid through veteran's benefits. Currently, community colleges provide a process for credit by exam and charge a fee. This process is available to all students and the student veteran may use their GI Bill benefits to pay for the credit by exam. Existing college processes provide the authority for colleges to use the ACE guidelines, and credit by exam. AB 372 highlights concerns expressed by student veterans who are seeking college credit for instruction in a military setting. The Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges recently approved a resolution encouraging the use of the ACE guidelines. By requiring an assessment for college credit by amending the definition of matriculation, AB 372 creates a mandate which may result in significant costs.

Location: AB 372 passed the Assembly and was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and placed on the Suspense File.

Position: Support, if amended

AB 636 (Knight) Military Service: Veterans Benefits

Analysis / Summary: AB 636 would eliminate the requirement in Section 824 of the Military and Veterans Code that requires that a student withdraw by a specified date in order to receive a refund of fees paid in the event that the student is called to services. AB 636 also requires that any credit toward a subsequent academic term must be equal to 100% of the cost of the subsequent tuition and fees paid to the institution for the current academic term.

Comments: National Guard, active duty and veteran students may be called to service and deployed by the Governor or the President of the United States at a moment's notice. This deployment may disrupt the student's education and cost the student money. AB 636 assists the student by taking into consideration that deployments may occur at any time, and expands the student's options upon their return to the college.

Location: AB 636 passed the Assembly and Senate Committee on Appropriations, and was referred to the Senate Floor.

Position: Support

AB 882 (Cook and Blumenfield) Priority Enrollment for Veterans

Analysis / Summary: AB 882 was recently amended to include language from AB 853 (Blumenfield), a bill that was supported by Chancellor's Office. Provisions from AB 853, now in AB 882 are designed to bring California into compliance with federal law, which requires that a member of the armed forces and their dependants are entitled to resident classification for the purposes of calculating tuition and fees for the duration of their enrollment in a public institution of higher education. AB 882 would also establish a "Veterans Service Center" pilot program through collaboration between the local workforce investment boards and participating county governments.

Location: AB 882 passed the Assembly and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs with no "no" votes, and was placed on the Senate Committee on Appropriations' Suspense File.

Position: Support

SB 813 (Veterans Affairs Committee) Priority Enrollment for Veterans

Analysis / Summary: SB 813 amends statute to increase the total time period for a veteran student to receive priority registration from two years to four years after leaving active duty.

Comments: SB 813 was amended on July 6, 2011 to specify that the student veteran would receive priority for "class" registration. Members and staff from the Assembly Higher Education Committee raised concerns about the effect of this amendment on UC and CSU. The bill is expected to be amended in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations at which time the July 6 amendment will be removed.

Location: SB 813 passed the Senate and will be rescheduled for hearing in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

