

Bills of Interest – as of January 30, 2009

AB 3 Green Collar Training Program

Author: Manuel Perez

Version: 12/01/08

Location: Assembly

Summary: This bill would require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), by January 1, 2011, to establish a Renewable Energy Workforce Readiness Program to ensure green collar career placement and advancement opportunities within California's renewable energy manufacturing, construction, installation, maintenance, and operation sectors that is targeted towards persons from specified populations including: those from low-income and disadvantaged populations, at-risk youth, formerly incarcerated non-violent offenders, displaced and incumbent workers in transition, and veterans of military service. The program would award competitive training grants to a variety of institutions, including community colleges, to implement and operate renewable energy worker training and education programs. The PUC would be required to: submit to the Legislature, by January 1, 2012, a report on the implementation of the program, and to implement the program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, using moneys from an unspecified fund.

Position: Support

AB 37 Honorary Degrees: WWII Internees

Author: Furutani

Version: 12/01/08

Location: Assembly

Summary: This bill would require the California State University Trustees and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to confer honorary degrees on those who were unable to complete their studies due to the World War II executive order which caused the evacuation, relocation, and internment of individuals of Japanese ancestry.

Position: Support if amended to provide that the honorary degrees will be conferred upon request of a qualified individual.

AB 38 Resident Classification for Veterans

Author: Salas

Version: 12/01/08

Location: Assembly

Summary: This bill would enact the Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2009, which would entitle a student who was a member of the Armed Forces to resident classification for the length of time he or she lives in this state after being discharged up to the minimum time necessary to become a resident, if the student is eligible for federal veterans education benefits; was honorably discharged or released from service; and has documentation of a domicile in the state and of a community service (volunteer) position approved by the institution.

Position: Support

AB 78 Concurrent Enrollment

Author: Portantino

Version: 12/18/08

Location: Assembly

Summary: This bill would broaden authorization for these programs by:

- authorizing school districts to enter into partnerships with community college districts to provide secondary school pupils with the opportunity to benefit from advanced scholastic, career-technical, or other coursework at a community college campus;
- deleting provisions of law which require the principal of a school to determine whether a pupil meets various criteria before recommending the pupil for community college summer session;
- deleting provisions of law which prohibit the principal from recommending for community college summer session attendance more than 5% of the total number of pupils from any particular grade level who completed that grade immediately prior to the time of recommendation; and
- providing a procedure for a pupil who has not yet attained secondary school level to receive approval from a district governing board in order to attend a community college.

Position: Watch

Comments: Staff will work with the author to remove low priority provisions (such as eligibility of elementary school students) from the bill to ensure that it is amenable to both the System and Department of Finance.

Issues for Discussion:

- Should community colleges support broadening these programs in this manner or await the work of the task force on concurrent enrollment and its recommendations about the most appropriate and important changes which should be made in this program during a time of limited resources?

AB 137 Open Meetings: Local Advisory Committees

Author: Jeffries

Version: 01/20/09

Location: Assembly

Summary: This bill would further limit exceptions to the open meeting requirements of the Brown Act to exclude meetings of advisory committees of local legislative bodies which are composed solely of the members of that legislative body and are less than a quorum only when the advisory committee's "subject matter has cumulatively lasted over two years."

Position: Oppose

Questions for discussion:

- Have there been abuses which would make it necessary or appropriate to further limit the exceptions to the Brown Open Meetings Act?
-

ACA 5 State General Obligation Bonds

Author: Calderon, Charles

Version: 12/15/2008

Location: Assembly

Summary: This constitutional amendment would require state bond measures that are qualified by the initiative process to provide full funding of the bond payments by either providing enough taxes or fees, eliminating existing programs, or both. It also would require that bonds be approved by 55 percent of the voters.

Position: Watch

Comments: This would not generally affect higher education bonds, which are usually placed on the ballot by the Legislature. Recent examples of initiative bonds include Propositions 3 (children's hospitals) and 10 (alternative energy) on the November 2008 ballot.

ACA 7 Affirmative Action

Author: Hernandez

Version: 12/22/08

Location: Assembly

Summary: This constitutional amendment would delete public education from the areas in which the California Constitution prohibits affirmative action on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

Position: Support

SB 15 Student Financial Aid: Members of the Armed Forces

Author: Cedillo

Version: 12/01/2008

Location: Senate Education Committee

Summary: This bill would, commencing with the 2010-11 academic year, entitle a student who is a member or former member of the United States Armed Forces to a Cal Grant A or B award if he/she enrolls at a campus of the California Community Colleges in a career technical education program, in a qualifying undergraduate certificate or degree program within two years of leaving active duty, and was eligible for a Cal Grant upon graduation from high school during or after the 2000-01 academic year.

Position: Support

SCA 6 Parcel Taxes

Author: Simitian

Version: 12/09/2008

Location: Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee

Summary: This bill would propose a constitutional amendment to lower the vote threshold for the approval of school and community college district parcel taxes from two-thirds (66.7%) to fifty-five percent (55%).

Position: Support

SBx1 14 Contracting for Non-Instructional Services

Author: Benoit

Version: 12/09/2008

Location: Senate

Summary: This bill would authorize school and community college districts to contract for any non-instructional services if the governing board has determined that the contract will provide a benefit for the district and would specifically allow contracting for non-instructional services including, but not limited to, the right to contract for consulting, management, supervision, and the direct provision of services in any non-instructional area, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Facilities construction and renovation;
- (2) Engineering, mechanical, maintenance, and repair;
- (3) Food preparation and food service;
- (4) Procurement, distribution, and transportation; and
- (5) Information technology, clerical, payroll, security, accounting, skilled trades, and landscaping.

The bill would apply only to contracts entered into, renewed, or amended after January 1, 2010.

CCCT Position: Oppose

CEOCCC Position: Support

SBx3 22 Contracting for Non-Instructional Services

Author: Benoit

Version: 01/20/09

Location: Senate

Summary: This bill would authorize school and community college districts to contract for any non-instructional services if the governing board has determined that the contract will provide a benefit for the district and would specifically allow contracting for non-instructional services including, but not limited to, the right to contract for consulting, management, supervision, and the direct provision of services in any non-instructional area, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Facilities construction and renovation;
- (2) Engineering, mechanical, maintenance, and repair;
- (3) Food preparation and food service;
- (4) Procurement, distribution, and transportation; and
- (5) Information technology, clerical, payroll, security, accounting, skilled trades, and landscaping.

This bill also would repeal provisions requiring contracts for food services not to exceed a term of one year and to be renewed on an annual basis; as well as repeal language which would prohibit a contract for food service management consulting from adversely impacting any food service classified personnel or position. This bill would also state that it addresses the fiscal emergency called by the Governor on December 19, 2008.

CCCT Position: Oppose

CEOCCC Position: Support