



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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IN THIS UPDATE:

- Legislation..... 1
- Leadership Changes in the Legislature 2
- Green Jobs and Technology 2
- New Sacramento Group to Improve California Governance..... 3
- Fast Facts 2008 3

Legislation

The deadline for introduction of new bills was February 22, with most bills introduced (in spot form only) on the final two days. The State’s fiscal crisis failed to dampen legislators’ desire to introduce new legislation. To date, the Assembly has introduced 3057 Assembly Bills (AB), 8 Assembly Constitutional Amendments (ACA), and 110 Assembly Concurrent Resolutions (ACR). The Senate introduced 1775 Senate Bills (SB), 12 Senate Constitutional Amendments (SCA), and 89 Senate Concurrent Resolutions (SCR). For comparison purposes, 3076 Assembly Bills and 1853 Senate Bills were introduced during the prior two-year session (2005-2006).

There is not sufficient language available to determine the real intent of many of the authors, but following are a few of the bills and bill titles which the League will be following closely:

- AB 100 – K - University education bonds
- AB 591 – Increasing the PT maximum workload
- AB 906 – Salaries of Classroom teachers
- AB 1754 – Grade changing policies
- AB 1758 – Repeal of 540 provisions and financial aid for CA National Guard
- AB 1916 – Changes in 50% Law
- AB 2006 – Center for Innovation (economic and workforce development)
- AB 2261 – Textbooks
- AB 2277 – 11% of Prop 98 funds for ccs at a date to be determined
- AB 2375 – Establishment of Health Care Master Plan Task Force
- AB 2458 – Funds for students and institutions with early graduation
- AB 2470 – Expansion of weapons prohibition on cc campuses
- AB 2550 – Increase in the amount of cc public contracts above \$50,000 for equipment
- AB 2551 – Design-build pilot for LACCD
- AB 2746 – Private postsecondary education (accreditation)
- ACR 91 – Intent that, starting 2010-11, ccs advance 20% annually toward meeting a 5-year goal of 75% tenured or tenure-track faculty and provide salaries and benefits comparable to FTF

- SB 325 – Higher Education Accountability
- SB 1393 – Prohibition of requiring any non-essential coursework for nursing students with BA degree
- SB 1585 – Intent that ccs increase transfers to UC, CSU and private institutions

SB 1620 – Spot bill re: nursing faculty hiring requirements
SB 1672 -- \$3B career/clean tech bonds for unspecified year

Leadership Changes in the Legislature

Following voter rejection of proposed changes to legislative term limits (Proposition 93), rumors were whirling around the Assembly and Senate of leadership changes. By February 7th, outgoing Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata introduced Sen. Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento as his successor as the Democratic leader of the Senate. The Senate, Perata said, would follow the model established by former President Pro Tem John Burton, in which the new president pro tem would take the reins of the caucus at the end of the legislative session. The Legislature agreed that Perata would remain pro tem until the end of the current session. A pro forma vote to select Steinberg is scheduled for August 21st. Steinberg's legislative priorities include mental health, high school drop out prevention, foster youth, and natural resources.

Not to be out done by the Senate, Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez held a press conference on the Assembly floor to announce his caucus' decision to keep him as leader until the end of session. The Assembly voted Thursday, February 28th, to elect Los Angeles Democrat Karen Bass as the next speaker, making her the first African American woman to hold the post. Bass won unanimously by a voice vote after a closed-door meeting among majority Democrats. Bass, 54, fended off nine competitors in the battle to replace current Speaker Fabian Núñez, D-Los Angeles. She put together a majority vote of the caucus. Núñez, in nominating Bass for the Assembly's top job, said that her selection is not only historic for the state, but the nation, because no other African American woman in the United States has served as speaker of a state legislative body. No date has been announced when Bass will officially take over as Speaker of the Assembly from Nunez. During her Assembly career, Bass has made foster care reform her top priority. As chair of the Select Committee on Foster Care, she has organized bipartisan participation that has resulted in a legislative package of 25 bills focusing on improving the state's Foster Care System.

Green Jobs and Technology

Following the green leadership of Governor Schwarzenegger, legislators are calling for green job development and training. Assembly Speaker Núñez announced that green job development is a top priority for this year stating that “the green economy can be a path out of poverty for underserved populations in California and the green economy can generate badly needed income and revenue for the state.” Legislators will look to retool and reform current programs to maximize existing resources and make legislative proposals more revenue neutral.

Earlier this year, the Assembly Select Committee on Community Colleges, chaired by Assembly member Mary Hayashi, held an informational hearing on community college green workforce training, economic development, and innovation. Chancellor Woodruff, Vice Chancellor Jose Millan, Yuba CCD Chancellor Nicki Harrington (representing the CEOCCC Board), Silicon Leadership Group, and PG&E, provided an overview of activities and job training for green technology. Also discussed was the integration of green technology curriculum throughout various occupational programs in community colleges. Committee members inquired about the proportion of funds allocated for green technology training, types of collaboration and partnerships with business and industry, enrollment numbers, diversity, and program incentives.

After the hearing, Assembly Member Hayashi announced that she was introducing legislation (AB 2006) to establish a “Center on Innovation” located in the Bay Area and responsible for coordinating the needs and jobs through out the State. A sample of bills introduced regarding green training, technology, and efficiency requirements include:

- **AB 2622 (Hayashi)**: Employment training programs: clean technology industry: funds
- **AB 2477 (Price)**: California Green Jobs Act of 2008: job training: green jobs
- **AB 2855 (Hancock)**: Career technical education: partnership academies: green technology and goods movement
- **AB 2868 (De Leon)**: Environmental training programs
- **AB 3018 (Nunez)**: California Green Collar Jobs Act of 2008: green jobs
- **SB 1672 (Steinberg)**: energy: Renewable energy, climate change, Career Technical Education , and Clean Technology Job Creation Bond Act of 201_

During the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) update to the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee, CPUC President Michael Peevey discussed a proposal under consideration by the CPUC to establish a partnership “institute” between academia and public and private sectors to advance technology solutions that will mitigate and help California adapt to the impact of climate change. This proposal would be funded by ratepayer surcharges and matching non-ratepayer funds. A final decision by the CPUC is expected in early 2008. During conversation with the committee, Peevey noted that community colleges are the primary segment where job training will take place for the new technology and green color jobs.

New Sacramento Group to Improve California Governance

A new group, called California Forward (www.caforward.org) has received \$15 million from several foundations for a three-year first phase, “with the promise of more” if there is progress. The bipartisan group, co-chaired by Leon Panetta (Dem) and Thomas McKernan (Rep), seeks to “fortify the ability of government to craft sound policies, deploy new technologies, attract the best public servants and manage modern programs... so they can deliver high quality services that communities need to thrive.” California Forward seeks to do this by “pursuing policies to ensure California has: representative and responsive officials; fiscally smart and prudent policies; high-performing public programs; and an engaged and respected public.” Its reform agenda will be based on “sound policy analysis and public consultation. Priorities will be determined by a public-interest-oriented Leadership Council, and specific reform proposals will be developed through inclusive and creative discussion with the public and policy and political professionals statewide.” In addition to the co-chairs, other members of the Leadership Council include: Bill Hauck, Antonia Hernandez, Fred Keeley, Sunne Wright McPeak, Charles Poochigian, Cruz Reynoso, Connie Rice, Bruce McPherson, Stewart Kwoh. Staff include James Mayer, Zabrae Valentine , Ryan Rauzon, Toby Ewing (who authored a community college study in 2000 while working for Jim Mayer at the Little Hoover Commission), Kate Martin, and Anita Lee.

Fast Facts 2008

League staff has updated Fast Facts 2008. It is available on our website: www.ccleague.org. This data sheet contains the most important facts regarding numbers and percentages of students at each segment of higher education; funding per FTES by segment; number of transfers to UC,

CSU, out of state, and private four-year institutions; resident vs. non-resident fees at two-year and four-year institutions; and other statistics.