



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Gubernatorial Action on Legislation

Governor Schwarzenegger has until midnight of October 11th to sign or veto legislation on his desk. Two bills on the BOG 2009 Legislative Program – AB 386 (Ruskin): Disabled Students: audio captioning; and AB 669 (Fong) Foster Youth: higher education residency requirements, are still awaiting the Governor’s signature. Last minute opposition from Department of Finance jeopardized the bills, but amendments carefully negotiated by the authors and CCCCO were made with anticipation of approval by the governor. Local college advocates are still requested to send letters of support to Governor Schwarzenegger asking for approval of AB 386 and AB 669.

Other bills on the Governor’s desk are:

- AB 3 (Perez): Workforce development: Renewable energy
- AB 37 (Furutani): Honorary degrees
- AB 48 (Portantino): Private Postsecondary Education Act
- AB 167 (Adams): High school graduation: Foster children
- AB 381 (Block): Unemployment disability benefits- part-time faculty
- AB 774 (Cook): Community college transportation fees
- AB 947(Brownley): Community college nonresident tuition/ capital outlay
- AB 1031 (Blumenfield): Renewable energy
- AB 1240 (Davis): Community college leasing of buildings
- AB 1295 (Fuller): Nursing degree programs: transfer students
- AB 1393 (Skinner): Foster Youth-postsecondary housing
- AB 1394 (Bass): Ca Workforce Investment Board: Green jobs
- AB 1400 (Fong): Community college student expulsion hearings
- SB 19 (Simitian): Education data
- SB 48 (Alquist): College textbooks: electronic versions
- SB 106 (Senate Local Gov. Com): Local agencies: Ethics training
- SB 160 (Cedillo): Student financial aid: Institutional eligibility

SB 218 (Yee): California Public Records Act: Postsecondary auxiliary organizations
SB 248 (Oropeza): Title IX: Posting student rights
SB 361 (Runner): Postsecondary enrollment preference: Veterans
SB 386 (Runner): Textbooks
SB 410 (Ducheny): Workforce Investment Act: Federal funding
SB 511 (Senate Education Committee): Postsecondary education: Temporary nursing faculty

Resolutions AJR 10 (Torlakson): Social Security retirement benefits and public employees (repeal of Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions) (Resolution Chapter 103 of 2009) and ACR 65 (Ruskin): Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education (Resolution Chapter 106 of 2009) have both been chaptered. Resolutions go directly to the Secretary of State for chaptering and do not need approval by the Governor.

The Community College League's 2009 End of Year Report will be available shortly after gubernatorial action has been completed on October 11th.

Legislature Returns October 13th

The Legislature will re-convene on October 13th (the first regular business day after the last day for the Governor to sign or veto legislation) for a special session on water, as well as the continuation of the Third Extraordinary Session which was convened but not adjourned. That session will allow for budget issues to be debated again, including the defunding of the California Student Aid Commission.

Joint Committee on Reform

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass and Senate President Pro Tempore Steinberg created a Joint Committee on Reform, and appointed members of the committee, with Assembly Member Feuer and Senator DeSaulnier co-chairing the joint committee.

The committee will look at ways to make the Legislature more transparent and effective. The Joint Committee will be tasked with: Giving Californians more value for their tax dollars by making government more efficient and accountable; cutting through the gridlock caused by outmoded rules and undue partisanship; making government more transparent and accessible across the state; diminishing the influence of special interests; and making government more customer-friendly.

2010 Legislative Program Task Force

The first meeting of the CA Community College Chancellor's office (CCCCO) will take place on October 8th from 10am-3pm at the CCCCCO. A follow up meeting on October 30th will finalize the package that will be presented to the Board of Governors (BOG) as the first reading item at their November 2-3rd meeting in San Francisco. The purpose of the meeting is to develop and recommend a state and federal legislative package for the BOG to sponsor in the upcoming 2010

legislative year. The task force will also discuss overall policy direction for the system to guide advocacy for the upcoming year.

Community College League of California's Annual Conference

The Community College League of California's Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency SFO in Burlingame on November 18th-21st. For full details on registration and conference topics, please go to: <http://www.ccleague.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3363>

Tax Commission Issues Report to Major Concerns

On Tuesday, September 29th, the Commission on the 21st Century Economy issued its long-awaited report on revision of the tax structure in California on a 9 – 5 vote by commission members, with the majority of Republicans in support and the majority of Democrats in opposition. Those voting for the final report included: Chairman Gerald Parsky, Ruben Barrales, Michael Boskin, John Cogan, Edward De La Rosa, Christopher Edley, Monica Lozano, Becky Morgan and Curt Pringle. Those opposed were: Bill Hauck, George Halvorson, Jennifer Ito, Fred Keeley, and Richard Pomp.

The recommendations of the Commission are:

- Reduce personal income tax (PIT) for taxpayers, by reducing the number of brackets from six to two and reducing the rates, with an estimated total tax reduction of 29 percent;
- Eliminate the corporation tax (currently 8.84%) and the \$800 minimum franchise tax;
- Over five years, eliminate the current 5% state sales tax, except for sales tax on gas and diesel fuels;
- Establish a business net receipts tax (BNRT), not to exceed 4% on the net receipts of businesses with an exemption for businesses with less than \$500,000 in gross annual receipts;
- Create an independent tax dispute forum; and
- Increase the target for the state reserve from 5% to 12.5% and restrict the ability of government to use reserve assets so that the reserve is available to help fund services during times of recession.

Upon issuance of its report, the Commission's work was immediately denounced by both the AFL-CIO and the Chamber of Commerce. Liberals expressed concern about the flattening of the income tax which shifts the burden to lower-income people; and the unwillingness of the Commission to consider revision of the property tax, which is among the most stable of taxes. They further are concerned about the uncertainty regarding whether the revenues under this proposal will be sufficient to fund education and social services in future years. Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and other conservative groups expressed concern about the BNRT as placing California businesses at a disadvantage when compared with those in other states.

The first hearing on these recommendations will be October 8th in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., State Capitol, Room 126.

California Basic Skills Report

The California Budget Project published a report, *At the Crossroads: Basic Skills Education in California*, last week. It provides a broad survey of basic skills and both credit and noncredit adult education, and notes that basic skills students have low levels of educational attainment.

They conclude that:

- The basic skills “system” is both large and increasingly important;
- Basic skills programs are needed for individuals with very different entering skills from those at extremely low levels of proficiency in math, English, or both to those who are almost college-ready;
- There is little attention in California to ensuring an easy transition from basic skills education to postsecondary education or skills training based on “available evidence [which] seems to suggest that most basic skills students fail to make that transition;”
- Funding for adult education is almost certain to be more constrained in the foreseeable future than in the past; and
- California is “mostly unable to track either long-term outcomes for the basic skills system as a whole or meaningful education attainment for individuals.”

Finally the report indicates that the CBP will “explore these observations in greater detail beginning with a closer look at how basic skills education is funded in California and how the current funding crisis is likely to affect future services..., examine the educational outcomes that students achieve in both the adult education programs and community college systems in detail, and review other states’ model programs for providing basic skills education.”

The report is available at: www.cbp.org

CEO Changes

- Chris McCarthy, superintendent/president of Napa Valley CCD since 2002, died on September 22 of unknown causes. A memorial service will be held at Napa Valley College on October 23, at 1 p.m.
- Kathleen Hodge, president of Fullerton College since January 2004, has accepted the post of vice chancellor for instruction at the North Orange County Community College District, effective October 1st.
- John Nixon, superintendent/president of Mt San Antonio College District since 2007, has announced that he will retire in December 2010.