



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WEEK OF JANUARY 9TH, 2012

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Welcome Note

Welcome to the new weekly Community College League of California’s Legislative Report! Beginning in 2012, the League will be sending out weekly instead of monthly legislative reports. The League believes since there is always so much happening within the State Capitol, we needed to send out more timely reports to keep you updated on what’s going on. With new legislative bills being introduced, initiatives being created, and budgets being proposed, 2012 will be a busy year. The League is primed to provide the latest in all legislative news. Look for the report every Monday in your inbox or on our website!

The Legislature

On January 4th, the Legislature returned to the State Capitol. The Legislature has until January 31st to pass 2011 bills still in the house of introduction. February 24th is the last day for 2012 bills to be introduced. Resolutions, constitutional amendments, committee bills, and emergency legislation are not subject to deadlines.

Legislative Hearings

Assembly Higher Education Committee – Tuesday, January 10th, 1:30pm

AB 383 (Portantino): Public postsecondary education: community colleges. League position (Watch)

AB 822 (Block): Public postsecondary education facilities: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2012. League position: (Watch)

Senate Education Committee – Wednesday, January 11th, 9:00am

SB 721 (Lowenthal): State Postsecondary Education: State Goals. (Watch)

Federal Update

As the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) reported on December 21st, the House and Senate have agreed to pass a \$915 billion omnibus appropriations package containing nine annual spending bills. Passed by the Senate, the bill is in the process of being enrolled and will soon be sent to the President for his signature. The House moved to put forth a bill that largely mirrored the omnibus conference report but then withdrew it from the calendar when the Senate formally filed the omnibus ending the stalemate.

Even though the House version of the omnibus and the conference report were largely similar, there are notable differences. The House had passed an additional 1.83% across-the-board cut for education and labor programs (including Pell) to pay for disaster aid funding. The Senate did not pass this additional cut, and the final bill includes a smaller 0.189% across-the-board cut for education and labor programs. Updated appropriations program numbers can be viewed here: <http://www.acct.org/FY%202012%20OMNIBUS%20FUNDING%20CHART.pdf>

2012 Community College League Legislative Conference

The Community College League of California's Legislative Conference will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento on January 29th & 30th. For full details on registration and a schedule-at-a-glance, please click [here](#).

Higher Education Oversight Report Issued by LAO

The Legislative Analyst's Office has just issued *Improving Higher Education Oversight*, available at: <http://lao.ca.gov/laoapp/PubDetails.aspx?id=2551>, as required by supplemental language which asked the LAO to make recommendations on the structure and duties of a statewide higher education coordinating body for California. This report was requested following the Governor's veto of funding for (and therefore elimination of) the California Postsecondary Education Commission in the 2011-12 budget.

This report finds a need for deliberate state oversight to assist policymakers in monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of the postsecondary system in serving the state's needs, and to make changes to improve its performance. The report also includes both longer-term recommendations for creating a new state oversight structure as well as interim steps the Legislature could take to help guide the state's postsecondary policy in the absence of a new agency.

Specifically, the report recommends that the Legislature:

- Define the state's postsecondary education needs which could involve setting specific goals, as many states have done, or identifying key areas or outcomes of interest to the state.
- Assign a technical work group to define measures of higher education performance and collect baseline data.
- Use performance results to inform policy decisions and hold regular oversight hearings as part of a feedback cycle for budget and policy decisions.
- Establish an independent oversight body with limited and clear responsibilities.