

Date of Hearing: April 23, 2013

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Das Williams, Chair

AB 1146 (Morrell) – As Amended: April 8, 2013

SUBJECT: Pupils: Concurrent enrollment in secondary school and community college.

SUMMARY: Extends to January 1, 2019 the sunset date for exemptions to the cap on the percentage of pupils that K-12 school principals may recommend for enrollment at the California Community Colleges (CCC) during summer sessions.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Authorizes the governing board of a school district, upon recommendation of the principal of a student's school of attendance, and with parental consent, to authorize a student who would benefit from advanced scholastic or vocational work to attend a community college as a special part-time or full-time student. Additionally, current law prohibits a principal from recommending, for community college summer session attendance, more than five percent of the total number of students in the same grade level and exempts from the five percent cap a student recommended by his or her principal for enrollment in a college-level summer session course if the course in which the pupil is enrolled meets specified criteria, and repeals these exemptions on January 1, 2014 (Education Code § 48800, et seq.).
- 2) Requires the CCC Chancellor's Office to report to the Department of Finance and Legislature annually on the amount of full-time equivalent students (FTES) claimed by each CCC district for high school pupils enrolled in non-credit, non-degree applicable, degree applicable (excluding physical education), and degree applicable physical education courses; and provides that, for purposes of receiving state apportionments, CCC districts may only include high school students within the CCC district's report on FTES if the students are enrolled in courses that are open to the general public, as specified. Additionally, current law requires the governing board of a CCC district to assign a low enrollment priority to special part-time or full-time students in order to ensure that these students do not displace regularly admitted community college students (EC § 76001 and § 76002).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: This bill was approved by the Assembly Education Committee on April 17, 2013.

Concurrent enrollment background. Concurrent enrollment provides pupils the opportunity to enroll in college courses and earn college credit while still enrolled in high school. Currently, a pupil is allowed to concurrently enroll in a CCC as a "special admit" while still attending high school, if the pupil's school district determines that the pupil would benefit from "advanced scholastic or vocational work." Special-admit students have typically been advanced pupils wanting to take more challenging coursework or pupils who come from high schools where Advanced Placement or honors courses are not widely available. Additionally, programs such as middle college high schools and early college high schools use concurrent enrollment to offer

instructional programs for at-risk pupils that focus on college preparatory curricula. These programs are developed through partnerships between a school district and a CCC. During summer session at a CCC, principals are limited to recommending no more than 5% of their pupils in each grade level to enroll at a CCC during a summer session. Existing law provides certain exemptions to this process (as aforementioned in current law above). These exemptions are set to expire January 1, 2014.

This bill extends the sunset date for the exemptions to January 1, 2019.

Reduced summer session offerings. Budget cuts resulted in reductions in a higher proportion of summer course sections than in either Fall or Spring terms, suggesting that many colleges tackled budget cuts by prioritizing course offerings in the primary Fall and Spring academic terms. PPIC notes that reductions in summer offerings may slow the completion rates for some students, as well as reduce the earnings for some faculty and staff who previously relied on summer income.

Impact of budget cuts on CCC. General Fund reductions combined with increased student demand has left the CCC unable to provide course offerings to fully meet student needs. Funding for the CCC has been cut \$809 million, or 12%, over the past three years. According to a March 2013 report by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), course offerings have declined from 420,000 to 334,000 since 2008—86,000 or 21% of course offerings—and most were credit courses necessary to transfer or obtain a degree or certificate. PPIC estimates that since 2008, 600,000 students have not been able to enroll in classes, and another 500,000 students were on waiting lists for Fall 2012 courses.

When there is greater demand than there are course offerings, course registration priorities play an important role in managing enrollment by determining which groups of students are enrolled in needed courses and which students get turned away.

Need for the bill. According to the author's office, funding flexibility has severely diminished career technical education in California's secondary schools. Extending opportunities for students through CCC summer sessions will help to mitigate the loss of options at the high school level. The author contends that serving the needs of students should be the primary focus of all of the state's educational institutions, and therefore the state should seek to reduce limits on concurrent enrollment opportunities.

The author states, "Understanding that most CCCs are at or near enrollment capacity, this bill, by extending the exemption sunset, only allows a minor increase in concurrent enrollment during the summer session for specific students."

Related legislation. There have been many bills introduced in the last several years that attempt to address concurrent enrollment and the 5% cap, including, but not limited to the following bills: AB 160 (Portantino, 2011), held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense file, removed certain restrictions on concurrent enrollment and authorized school districts to enter into partnerships with CCC districts to provide high school pupils opportunities for advanced scholastic work, career technical or other coursework at CCC campuses. AB 230 (Carter), Chapter 50, Statutes of 2011, exempted a pupil attending a middle college high school from the requirement that CCC governing boards assign a low enrollment priority to concurrent enrollment students if that pupil is seeking to enroll in a CCC course that is required for the

pupil's middle college high school program. AB 78 (Portantino, 2009), held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense file, proposed to expand the use of concurrent enrollment between high schools and CCCs by raising and ultimately lifting the cap on the percentage of high school pupils that principals could recommend for CCC summer sessions and proposed to ease restrictions on the types of CCC courses that may be offered to high school pupils. SB 1437 (Padilla), Chapter 718, Statutes of 2008, extended the sunset date from January 1, 2009 until January 1, 2014 for which this bill seeks to further extend the sunset. AB 1409 (Portantino, 2007), held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense file, was virtually identical to AB 78 (as described above). SB 1303 (Runner), Chapter 648, Statutes of 2006, exempted from the specified 5% cap on CCC summer session enrollment, a pupil recommended by his or her principal if the pupil met specified criteria. AB 967 (Canciamilla), Chapter 399, Statutes of 2005, exempted from an enrollment cap on concurrent enrollment at the CCC a student recommended by his/her principal for enrollment in a college level advanced scholastic summer session course, or in a vocational CCC summer session course. SB 338 (Scott), Chapter 786, Statutes of 2003, changed the statutes governing concurrent enrollment in the CCC, including the specification of eligible courses, the determination of academic credit for courses completed, appropriate claiming of per student funding for courses offered, and the disclosure of course availability.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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