

Date of Hearing: April 25, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1299 (Gipson) – As Amended April 17, 2017

SUBJECT: Community colleges: Compton Community College District

SUMMARY: Enacts provisions related to the transition of the El Camino College Compton Center (ECCCC) to the Compton Community College District (Compton CCD), upon the latter receiving accreditation to once again operate as a district. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Provides that all of the following shall apply to a student enrolled at ECCCC six months before the change in control of that institution from the El Camino CCD to the Compton CCD:
 - a) Any student who, by the end of the spring term immediately preceding the change in control has completed 75% of the courses required for their degree or certificate shall be able to complete that program at Compton College, and Compton CCD shall make every reasonable effort to allow students who have not completed 75% of their coursework to also complete their programs at Compton College;
 - b) Compton CCD shall consider each student at ECCCC who enrolls for classes at Compton College to be a continuing student for purpose of enrollment priorities; and
 - c) Any regulations of the California Community Colleges (CCC) Board of Governors related to minimum resident at a community college granting a degree shall not be applicable.
- 2) Stipulates that general apportionment revenues to the Compton CCD based on full-time equivalent student enrollment at the district, for 2021-22 through 2023-24, shall not fall below the amount apportioned to the ECCCC for 2017-18.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides for a partner community college district to provide accredited instructional programs to students residing in the Compton CCD for the period of time that the district is without accreditation. (Education Code (EC) Section 74292 et seq.)
- 2) Provides a methodology for apportioning CCC revenues among districts based on enrollment and types of courses. (EC Sect. 84750.5.)
- 3) Provided apportionment stabilization funding to the San Francisco Community College District, which was in jeopardy of losing its accreditation and was experiencing declining enrollment. The funding was contingent on the district meeting specified benchmarks related to its fiscal policies and practices. (EC Sect. 84750.6.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

Background. The Compton Community College District lost its governing authority in 2004, and Compton College's accreditation was terminated in 2005-06, primarily due to fiscal insolvency. AB 318 (Dymally), Chapter 50, Statutes of 2006, provided a \$30 million line of credit, a mechanism for partnering with an accredited college, and authorized the Chancellor of the CCC to appoint a Special Trustee.

Under a partnership established pursuant to AB 318, El Camino CCD established an educational center on the Compton campus and, since that time, has provided instructional and student services through the El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center (ECCCC). A Partnership Agreement outlines the agreement between the Compton and El Camino, and the management oversight of the Compton Center remains under the purview of the El Camino CCD Board of Trustees.

The Provost leads the Compton Center, reporting to the Superintendent/President of El Camino College. The Provost is responsible for all aspects of the Compton Center including its instructional programs, student services, and other programs and services. The Provost also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Compton CCD, reporting to the Special Trustee established under AB 318.

AB 318 provided authorization for the CCC Chancellor's Office to suspend the authority of the Compton Board of Trustees for a period up to five years from the effective date of AB 318, plus a period lasting until the State Chancellor, the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), the Department of Finance, and the Governor's Office concur with the Special Trustee that the district has, for two consecutive academic years, met the requirements of the comprehensive assessment conducted and the recovery plan prepared.

In January of this year, the Compton Center submitted an Institutional Self-Evaluation Report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) as part of the process of seeking accreditation.

On February 14, the Chancellor's Office announced that the Governor, Department of Finance and the Chancellor concurred with the Special Trustee that governance of the Compton Community College District should be returned to the District's elected Board of Trustees.

On March 6-9, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) External Evaluation Team conducted a four-day visit to the campus to review the evidence presented in the report, meet with employees, tour the campus, attend various campus meetings and participate in two open forums. The ACCJC will meet June 6-8, 2017 to review the official visiting team report. The college will be informed of ECCCC's accreditation status via a letter from the ACCJC following that meeting.

Purpose. According to the author's office, AB 1299 is seeking to support Compton Community College as it transitions into an independently-accredited institution, by providing certain policy exemptions that the college will need to ensure a successful transition for the college and its students. In addition, the college anticipates incurring significant expenses as it seeks to end its

reliance on El Camino College. One-time expenses, such as information technology systems and increased marketing, and ongoing expenses, such as increased staffing, may be required. (Committee staff understands that the district will seek to address such funding needs through the budget process, possibly with a multi-year approach.)

The college also anticipates a potential enrollment decline, as some students may decide to stay at El Camino College instead of enrolling in Compton College when it reopens under its own governance. Such declines have apparently occurred in the past at a district educational center when the center has transitioned into a fully-accredited college. In this instance, some ECCCC students who would be close to completion at the time of the changeover might wish to finish and obtain their degrees from El Camino College rather than enroll at Compton College. This bill, therefore, provides for a guaranteed minimum amount of apportionment funding to the district for the first four years that Compton College would be in operation, commencing with the 2020-21 academic year.

Prior Legislation.

SB 860 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 34, Statutes of 2014, a budget trailer bill, provided apportionment stabilization funding through 2016-17 to the San Francisco Community College District (SFCCD).

AB 1602 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 24, Statutes of 2016, another budget trailer bill, provided for SFCCD to receive restoration funding for five years for any reduction in apportionment revenue due to its prior enrollment declines.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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