

Date of Hearing: April 17, 2012

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Marty Block, Chair  
AB 2309 (Hill) – As Amended: March 29, 2012

SUBJECT: Community colleges: San Mateo Innovation Center Pilot Program

SUMMARY: Authorizes the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCD) to partner with the Economic Development and Growth Enterprise to establish the San Mateo Innovation Center Pilot Program (Pilot). Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Authorizes the SMCCD to establish the Pilot to accomplish all of the following:
  - a) Promote business development and job creation by helping early stage business ventures with new ideas to find funding or to reach operating stability.
  - b) Leverage underutilized infrastructure and entrepreneurship programs of the CCC system to sponsor programs that encourage and reward creativity, collaboration, and innovation.
  - c) Recruit and coordinate businesses and investors from the local community to provide funding, sponsorships, and internships.
- 2) Provides that the provisions of this bill are operative only if the Legislature appropriates funds or if sufficient private funding is received for this purpose.
- 3) Sunsets all of the aforementioned on January 1, 2016.

EXISTING LAW establishes the California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) Program as a primary mission of the California Community Colleges (CCC). The EWD program is administered through the CCC Chancellor's Office for the purpose of advancing California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous work force improvement, technology, deployment, and business development. CCCs work with employers, advisory committees, and agency partners to identify, on a region-by-region basis, workforce education and training needs, including the needs of small business. (Education Code § 88525 and 88550.5)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This bill has been keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel. However, the Assembly Appropriations Committee has requested to review this bill, should it be approved by the Higher Education Committee.

COMMENTS: Double-referral. This bill has been double-referred to the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy.

Purpose of this bill. According to the author, this bill represents the 2012 Constituent Bill Idea Contest winner. The bill seeks to establish the Pilot Program to foster entrepreneurial development and job growth in Peninsula communities. The bill seeks to address a problem that individuals and small businesses often have taking their company to the next level by helping early stage business ventures with new ideas to either find early stage funding or to reach the

point of operating stability. By bringing the SMCCD and the Economic Development and Growth Enterprise together the goal is to nurture job growth in the Peninsula since the state's small business development centers are being scaled back through budget cuts. This bill is intended to ensure the SMCCD can receive private funding to operate the Pilot.

Legislation is not necessary. As noted by the author, there is no specific deficiency in current law. Current law authorizes SMCCD to undertake pilot programs like the one outlined in this bill. However, this bill is designed to take a proactive step to promote job growth and business development in the region. While legislation is not necessary, the author believes that if the bill were implemented and a program were started at SMCCD the region would benefit through job creation by linking up students, academia and the private sector.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on File

Opposition

None on File

Analysis Prepared by: Laura Metune / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960