

Date of Hearing: August 29, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 637 (Medina) – As Amended June 12, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Community colleges: cross-enrollment in online education.

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes a California Community College (CCC) student who meets specified requirements to enroll in an online course provided by another CCC (referred to as a teaching college) through the Online Education Initiative (OEI) Consortium; and, authorizes a participating community college district to accept the determination of a student's residency classification under certain conditions. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes a CCC student who meets specified requirements to enroll without formal admission, in a course provided entirely online by a CCC.
- 2) Requires a student to meet the following requirements for enrollment:
  - a) Be enrolled at a CCC that is part of the OEI Consortium;
  - b) Attain at least a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4-point scale for completed coursework;
  - c) Pay the appropriate fees and tuition required by the home college; and,
  - d) Have no outstanding tuition and or fees to be paid at the teaching college.
- 3) Establishes the following requirements for cross-enrollment in online courses at the CCC:
  - a) Authorizes nonresident or international students who satisfy the conditions outlined in 2) above, to be able to cross-enroll, but stipulates that these students must pay the required nonresident tuition;
  - b) Requires a teaching campus to charge participating students the appropriate course enrollment fees for residents as specified;
  - c) Requires the CCC Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to establish an online methodology to allow students to be informed of the online cross-enrollment option, to simultaneously enroll in both home and teaching colleges, and provide consent to transfer relevant enrollment data to the teaching college;
  - d) Requires that the course be accepted for credit at the home campus on the same basis as that for a matriculated student at the teaching campus;
  - e) Authorizes the teaching campus to count cross-enrolled students in the calculation of headcount or full-time equivalent student enrollment at the teaching campus, but limits both the home and teaching campus to counting a cross-enrolled student only for those units in which the student is enrolled at each respective campus;

- f) Authorizes a community college district to accept the determination of another community college district as to a student's residency classification provided all of the following conditions are satisfied:
    - i) The student is cross-enrolling, as specified;
    - ii) The student is cross-enrolling in a course available through the online course exchange of the OEI Consortium;
    - iii) The home college certifies the determination of the community college district as to the student's residency classification;
    - iv) The student is enrolling in a course available at the teaching college through the online course exchange of the OEI Consortium; and,
    - v) Both the home and teaching college have signed on to participate in the online course exchange of the OEI Consortium.
  - g) Requires a teaching college to inform each student who enrolls in an online course of the technical or any prerequisite course requirements and any materials, skills knowledge or other elements that are necessary to ensure that a student has an opportunity to succeed in the online course.
- 4) Defines various terms including, but not limited to:
- a) "Home college" to mean the campus of the CCC at which a student is matriculated;
  - b) "Teaching college" to mean the campus of the CCC to which a student seeks access;
  - c) "OEI Consortium" to mean the efforts to expand the delivery of courses through technology per the Budget Act of 2013 (Chapter 20, Statutes of 2013); and,
  - d) "Online course exchange," to mean the technological mechanism used by the OEI Consortium to offer an online-only course that has highest demand, fill quickly, and are prerequisites for many different courses.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Authorizes a student who meets specified requirements and is enrolled at a campus of the California State University (CSU), to enroll, without formal admission, and without payment of additional tuition or fees, except as provided, in a course provided entirely online, as defined, by another campus of the CSU (Education Code (EC) Sections 66760.5 – 66764).
- 2) Requires that each student be classified as a resident or nonresident at the University of California (UC), the CSU, or the California Maritime Academy, or at a CCC (EC Section 68040).
- 3) Requires the CCC Chancellor, using funds appropriated under the Budget Act of 2013, to expand the delivery of higher education courses through the use of technology, in order to

maximize the development of online courses available across campuses to alleviate shortages of certain core courses at campuses, specifically those courses that have the highest demand, fill quickly, and are prerequisites for many different degrees. Under the Budget Act provisions, the CCCCO is required to ensure that students enrolling and successfully completing these courses are granted degree-applicable cross-campus transfer credit and that these online-only courses are made available to students systemwide. These efforts are referred as the OEI (Schedule 26 and Provision 42 Item 6870-101-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2013 [AB 110 (Blumenfeld), Chapter 20, Statutes of 2013]).

**FISCAL EFFECT:** According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

**COMMENTS:** *Online Exchange Initiative.* As noted in the "existing law section" of this analysis, the 2013 Budget Act included a \$16.9 million allocation and ongoing annual funding of \$10 million for the CCCCO to establish the OEI course exchange.

According to the CCCCO, the OEI Course Exchange provides students who are enrolled at a community college and cannot find the courses they need to complete their degree or transfer, the opportunity to find and take that course at a different CCC through the OEI.

A student's participation in OEI does not mean that he/she will complete his/her degree by taking courses exclusively online; rather, it is a tool available to students after they have exhausted opportunities to enroll at their home college.

Committee Staff understands that the OEI Consortium is available to all CCCs, but participation is not required. To note, of the 24 pilot schools in the OEI Consortium, eight colleges joined the OEI Course Exchange. According to the author, expansion of courses and the addition of more colleges remains ongoing.

This measure establishes OEI in statute and additionally authorizes a community college district to accept the determination of a student's residency classification.

*Need for the measure.* According to the author, "Currently, students selecting courses that they need to complete their degree or transfer to a four-year institution in the CCC's OEI Course Exchange encounter delays when attempting to enroll due to the requirement that each community college verify student residency prior to enrollment. At the same time, colleges offering courses in the OEI Course Exchange are at risk of failing to comply with residency determination requirements if they allow a student to enroll prior to verifying student residency."

This bill seeks to remove administrative barriers for students seeking to enroll in courses through the OEI Course Exchange.

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (sponsor)  
MiraCosta College

### **Opposition**

None on file.

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