

Date of Hearing: April 1, 2014

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Das Williams, Chair  
AB 2445 (Chau) – As Introduced: February 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Community colleges: transportation fees.

SUMMARY: Specifies that a California Community College (CCC) district governing board is authorized to enter into a contract to provide transportation services to students and employees if a majority of the students of that district, or individual campus of that district, vote to approve the transportation fee.

EXISTING LAW authorizes a CCC governing board to charge the district's, or campus of the district's, students and employees for transportation services, provided that a majority of a CCC district's students and/or employees vote to support a transportation services fee before a fee is charged to any group of students and/or faculty not using the service; establishes a maximum transportation service fee amount of \$70 per semester and from \$35 per intersession.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This bill is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS: Background. AB 2812 (Higher Education Committee), Chapter 954, Statutes of 1998, authorized CCC districts, upon a majority vote of students or students and employees, to charge a fee to students or students and employees in order to cover the costs of contracted transportation services. A majority vote of the students of the district is required, at minimum, every 10 years (the maximum length of the transportation services contract). Elections are required to be publically noticed and open to all students. Under AB 2812, low-income students were exempt from paying the fee.

As a result of the increase in student utilization of transportation services and an increase in the CCC Board of Governors Fee Waiver recipients who were exempt from paying the transportation services fee, Los Rios CCD faced rising numbers of users and falling fee revenues. Without the ability to divide the fee among all students, including low-income students, Los Rios CCD was concerned that the transportation service fee would increase to the point that students would likely not have voted to continue transportation services. In 2006, AB 1968 (Leslie), Chapter 560, Statutes of 2006, authorized Los Rios Community College District (CCD) and Rio Hondo CCD to include low-income students in the fee. In 2008, with Peralta CCD governing board members and student leaders in conversations with the local public transit authority to establish transportation services similar to those at Los Rios CCD, AB 1980 (Swanson), Chapter 145, added Peralta CCD to these provisions. AB 774 (Cook), Chapter 253, Statutes of 2009, authorized all CCC districts to include low-income students in the fee.

Purpose of this bill. Existing law allows a transportation fee program to be established for a “campus” upon the favorable vote of the students. However, the Education Code states that any election to implement such a program must be approved in an election by a “majority of the students of that district.” This makes it unclear if districts can provide transportation services to a single campus with a vote of just that campus or if they need a vote of the entire district. This bill would allow transportation fees to be adopted with the approval of students at either a

campus or district level, as applicable, providing more flexibility for multi-campus districts to provide transportation services to individual campuses.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Community College League of California  
Los Angeles Community College District  
Rio Hondo Community College District  
South Orange Community College District  
Yosemite Community College District  
Yuba Community College District

Opposition

None on file.

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