

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2014

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Das Williams, Chair
AB 2610 (Williams) – As Amended: April 1, 2014

SUBJECT: California State University: special sessions.

SUMMARY: Requires the California State University (CSU) Chancellor to develop a definition for "supplanting" and report to the Legislature by January 31, 2015. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Finds and declares that CSU extension education courses and programs are designed and used to provide increased access to the system; campuses are prohibited from "supplanting" state-supported courses with self-supported courses; the California State Auditor (Auditor) has determined that existing state law does not define "supplanting"; "Supplant" is used in the context of community college extension courses, but is not defined in that provision; and, that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to provide sufficient direction to the CSU regarding "supplanting".
- 2) Requires the CSU Chancellor, in consultation with stakeholders, including, but not necessarily limited to, the Academic Senate of the CSU, to develop a definition of "supplanting" in accordance with the aforementioned Legislative intent.
- 3) Requires the CSU Chancellor to report the recommended definition of "supplanting" to the chairpersons of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and the Senate Committee on Education on or before January 31, 2015.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires CSU to establish tuition/fees adequate to meet the cost of maintaining "special sessions" (extension courses/programs) and defines "special sessions" to mean self-supporting instructional programs conducted by CSU, including, but not be limited to, career enrichment and retraining programs; and,
- 2) Establishes Legislative intent that extension programs may be provided throughout the year, and shall not supplant regular course offerings available on a non self-supporting basis during the regular academic year.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Background. In December 2013, the Bureau of State Audits (BSA) released an audit report concerning extended education in CSU and the supplanting of state-supported courses. BSA found difficulty in determining the extent to which "supplanting" occurred due to lack of clarity in the term. The BSA audit considered two interpretations of supplanting: (1) a campus could not require a student to enroll in a self-supported course as the only path to their degree; and, (2) the plain meaning definition of replacing a state-supported section with an extension section. In analyzing campus course data for fiscal years 2007-08 through 2011-12, BSA found potential instances of supplanting under both definitions. BSA recommended that the Legislature provide direction regarding the interpretation of supplanting, and provided

several recommendations to the CSU Chancellor's Office regarding oversight and compliance of campus extension program activities.

CSU efforts. In response to the BSA audit, the CSU Chancellor's Office has established an Extended Education State Audit Task Force to develop a definition of supplanting and make a recommendation to the Chancellor. The Task Force includes five campus presidents, four faculty members, two provosts, two extended education representatives, and two Office of the Chancellor representatives. The Task Force solicited comments/feedback from the CSU community, and has held meetings open to the public to discuss definition options. The final recommendations are expected to be presented to the Chancellor in June.

Purpose of this bill. According to the author, this bill responds to the Auditor's recommendation but also acknowledges the work already underway by the CSU to address this issue. The author believes it is appropriate to allow the CSU, in consultation with stakeholders, to develop a recommended definition for "supplant" that can inform future statutory changes.

Related legislation. AB 2153 (Gray) would establish a definition of "supplanting" for the purpose of CSU extension. This bill was heard, amended, and approved by this committee on April 22, 2014.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Office of the Chancellor
California State University, Sacramento
California State University San Bernardino
California State University, Stanislaus
Humboldt State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University

Opposition

None on file.

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