

Date of Hearing: June 11, 2013

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Das Williams, Chair
SB 576 (Block) – As Amended: April 30, 2013

SENATE VOTE: 37-0

SUBJECT: Teacher credentialing: Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

SUMMARY: Authorizes the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges (CCC) to appoint an alternate representative to serve as an ex-officio member to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), in the absence of the California Postsecondary Education Commission's (CPEC) representative.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: CTC. Established in 1970, the CTC develops professional standards for preparation, certification, and assignment monitoring of K-12 public school teachers as well as for administration and service professionals. The CTC implements these programs through the issuance and renewal of teaching and service credentials, accreditation of teacher preparation programs, and monitoring of teacher conduct.

The CTC is comprised of 19 members: 15 voting members and four ex-officio, non-voting members. The voting members are the Superintendent of Public Instruction and 14 members appointed by the Governor for four-year terms. These appointments include six teacher representatives, four representatives of the public, one member of a school district governing board, one K-12 school administrator, one faculty member from a college or university, and one non-administrator services credential representative (e.g. school counselor, librarian, or speech therapist). The four ex-officio members, whose terms are ongoing, represent the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU), the Regents of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and CPEC.

The ex-officio members do not vote in any of the proceedings of the CTC nor in any of its committees or subcommittees, except by a majority vote of the CTC, ex-officio members may be permitted to vote in order to establish a quorum or as otherwise determined by the CTC.

CPEC. AB 770 (Vasconcellos), Chapter 1187, Statutes of 1973, created CPEC and made it responsible for the planning and coordination of postsecondary education. CPEC was charged with providing analysis, advice, and recommendations to the Legislature and the governor on statewide policy and funding priorities. As part of his 2011-12 budget, Governor Brown proposed eliminating CPEC. Both houses rejected this proposal, but the governor exercised his line item veto to remove all General Fund support for CPEC, describing the commission as "ineffective." In his veto message, however, the governor acknowledged the need for coordinating and guiding state higher education policy and requested that stakeholders explore alternative ways these functions could be fulfilled.

On November 18, 2011, CPEC closed its office and ceased operations. Its federal Teacher Quality Improvement grant program was transferred to the California Department of Education and its extensive data resources were transferred to the CCC Chancellor's Office.

Need for the bill. According to the author, the CCC is currently the only segment of the California higher education community not represented on the CTC.

California's educator preparation programs intersect with the CCC in several ways. First, many teacher candidates begin their undergraduate education in the CCC and complete it at a UC, CSU or AICCU campus. Second, specific teacher pipeline programs, such as the Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program are dependent on articulated partnerships with 50 CCC campuses. Third, Community Colleges are a major provider of Child Development Permit candidates. Child Development Permits constitute 20 percent of the documents issued by the CTC.

SB 576 would ensure that all segments of higher education are represented and provide the CTC with the perspective of that segment on plans and programs allowing for better continuity and articulation within and among programs and processes.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Association of California School Administrators
Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Sponsor)
California Federation of Teachers
Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges (prior version of the bill)

Opposition

None on file.

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