

Date of Hearing: July 11, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

SB 769 (Hill) – As Amended July 3, 2017

SENATE VOTE: 38-2

SUBJECT: Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program

SUMMARY: Extends the operation of the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program until July 1, 2028.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Differentiates the missions and functions of public and independent institutions of higher education. Under these provisions:
 - a) The primary mission of the California State University (CSU) is to offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree. The CSU is authorized to establish two-year programs only when mutually agreed upon by the Trustees and the California Community College (CCC) Board of Governors. The CSU is also authorized to jointly award the doctoral degree with the University of California (UC) and with one or more independent institutions of higher education;
 - b) The UC is authorized to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and has exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education over graduate instruction in the professions of law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. The UC is also the primary state-supported academic agency for research;
 - c) The independent institutions of higher education are required to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and research in accordance with their respective missions; and,
 - d) The mission and function of the CCC is to offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level and the CCC are authorized to grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degree. The community colleges are also required to offer remedial instruction, English as a Second Language instruction, and adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level. (Education Code (EC) Section 66010.4)
- 2) Authorizes the CCC Board of Governors, in consultation with the CSU and the UC, to establish baccalaureate degree pilot programs, at up to 15 community college districts, with one baccalaureate degree program each, as specified, to be determined by the Chancellor of the CCC and as long as it does not duplicate a baccalaureate degree program already offered by the CSU or the UC. Completion of an independent evaluation by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) is also required and sunsets the program on July 1, 2023. (EC Section 78040 et seq.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: *Need for the bill.* According to the author, the state faces an urgent need to increase the number of Californian's with four-year degrees by 2030, as population and education trends suggest that only 33 percent of working-age adults in California will have a BA degree— a shortfall of 1.1 million college graduates. This bill seeks to address the skills gap by expanding the existing authorization to offer baccalaureate degrees at CCC.

Status of existing pilot. SB 850 (Block, Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014) authorized the Board of Governors, in consultation with the CSU and the UC, to establish a baccalaureate degree pilot program. The pilot program allows up to 15 participating community college districts to offer one baccalaureate degree program each to meet local workforce needs as long as it does not duplicate a baccalaureate degree program already offered by the CSU or the UC. The LAO will conduct interim and final evaluations of the pilot program, which are due on July 1, 2018, and July 1, 2022, respectively. SB 850 sunsets on July 1, 2023.

Under SB 850, the four-year degree programs must be up and running by the 2017-18 academic year. Below is the list of colleges that were selected to participate in the pilot:

- 1) Antelope Valley College (airframe manufacturing technology)
- 2) Bakersfield College (industrial automation)
- 3) Cypress College (mortuary science)
- 4) Feather River College (equine industry)
- 5) Foothill College (dental hygiene)
- 6) Mesa College (health information management)
- 7) Mira Costa College (biomanufacturing)
- 8) Modesto Junior College (respiratory care)
- 9) Santa Ana College (occupational studies)
- 10) Shasta College (health information management)
- 11) Skyline College (respiratory care)
- 12) West Los Angeles College (dental hygiene)
- 13) Rio Hondo College (automotive technology)
- 14) Santa Monica College (interaction design)
- 15) Solano Community College (biotechnology)

According to the CCC Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), 10 of the 15 pilot programs began operation in the fall of 2016, while the final five will begin operation in fall of 2017. The CCCCCO reports that for the fall of 2016, 206 students are enrolled in the baccalaureate degree pilot program.

Program funding. The 2015-16 Budget Trailer Bill, SB 81 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 81, Statutes of 2015) provided \$6 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to support the implementation of the SB 850 pilot program. Colleges could use these funds for equipment, space, staff, faculty, professional development, library resources, travel to conferences, and consultants. An additional \$750,000 was provided for professional development and to the 15 pilot colleges. The 2016-17 Budget included \$2.5 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund for outreach aimed at the baccalaureate degree pilot program, among other things.

Significant reductions in CCCCCO staffing occurred in the early 2000s and over a multiyear period, resulted in a drop in staff of approximately 235 to 145 employees by the end of 2003. The Governors 2017-18 Budget proposal recognizes the need to develop an organizational framework and increase staffing that will better enable the CCCCCO to support colleges and students within the scope of its existing responsibilities.

Master Plan for Higher Education. As outlined in the Master Plan for Higher Education and by state statute, the CCCs are designated to have an open admission policy and bear the most extensive responsibility for lower-division undergraduate instruction. Its three primary areas of mission include education leading to associates degrees and university transfer, career technical education, and basic skills. The primary mission of the CSU is undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree. The UC was granted the sole authority to offer doctoral degrees.

Notwithstanding the differentiation of mission envisioned by the Master Plan and outlined in statute, the Legislature has authorized the CSU to go beyond its original mission to offer four professional doctoral degrees which include the Doctor of Audiology, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Nursing. Fees were capped at the rate charged at the UC, no additional funding was provided by the state, and these programs were to be implemented without diminishing or reducing enrollment in undergraduate programs. Additionally, The CSU programs offer applied doctorates and are not duplicative of degrees offered by UC. These authorities were more limited in scope than that proposed by this bill.

Forthcoming LAO study. The LAO will conduct interim and final evaluations on the pilot program, which are due on July 1, 2018, and July 1, 2022, respectively, before the pilot program sunsets on July 1, 2023. The reports will include an evaluation of cost and funding sources that were used to fund programs, current trends in workforce demands that require four-year degrees in the specific programs offered through the pilot, completion rates, the impact of baccalaureate degree pilot program on underserved and underprepared students, information on job placement of graduates and recommendations on whether and how the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program can or should be extended and expanded.

Committee comments and amendments. As currently drafted, this measure extends the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program by five years. However, additional technical amendments to the code section are necessary to ensure that students will be able to enroll beyond the 2022-2023 academic year. Committee Staff *recommends*, and the *author has agreed to accept* the following amendments:

78041. Notwithstanding Section 66010.4, and commencing January 1, 2015, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, in consultation with the California State University and the University of California, may authorize the establishment of district baccalaureate degree pilot programs that meet all of the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 78042. A district pilot program established pursuant to this article shall commence no later than the 2017–18 academic year. A student participating in a baccalaureate degree pilot program shall complete his or her degree by the end of the ~~2022–23~~ 2027-28 academic year. For purposes of this section, a pilot program commences when the first class of students begins the program. The statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program shall consist of a maximum of 15 districts, with one baccalaureate degree program each, to be determined by

the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and approved by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

78042. (5) A district shall notify a student who applies to the district's baccalaureate degree pilot program that the student is required to complete his or her baccalaureate degree by the end of the ~~2022-23~~ 2027-28 academic year, as specified in Section 78041.

Related Legislation. SB 577 (Dodd) of 2017, authorizes the Board of Governors of the CCC, in consultation with the CSU and UC, to authorize a community college district to offer a teacher credentialing program meeting specified requirements. SB 577 is pending a hearing in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

SB 850 (Block, Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014) authorizes the Board of Governors of the CCC, in consultation with the CSU and the UC, to establish baccalaureate degree pilot programs, at up to 15 community college districts, with one baccalaureate degree program each, as specified, to be determined by the Chancellor of the California Community College.

AB 661 (Block, 2011) authorized Grossmont-Cuyamaca and the San Mateo Community College districts to offer one baccalaureate degree pilot program per campus. AB 661 as heard and passed in the Assembly Higher Education Committee by a vote of 6-0 but was moved to the inactive file on the Assembly Floor.

AB 2400 (Block, 2010) authorized the San Diego, Grossmont-Cuyamaca and San Mateo Community College districts to establish baccalaureate degree pilot programs. No vote was taken and AB 2400 was held in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Allen Hancock College
Antelope Valley College
Association of California Community College Administrators
Cabrillo College
California Farm Bureau Federation
Coast Community College District
College of the Canyons
Community College League of California
Feather River College
Foothill-DeAnza Community College District
Kern Community College District
Los Rios Community College District
Los Angeles Community College District
Marin Community College District
MiraCosta Community College District
Mt. San Antonio Community College District
Peralta Community College District
Rancho Santiago Community College District
Redwoods Community College District

Rio Hondo Community College District
San Diego Community College District
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Unified School District
San Jose-Evergreen Community College District
San Mateo Community College District
Santa Monica College
Shasta College
South Orange County Community College District
Yuba Community College District
13 Individuals

Opposition

California Faculty Association
California Federation of Teachers
California Teachers Association
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges

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