

Date of Hearing: July 2, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

SB 1335 (Archuleta) – As Introduced February 16, 2024

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: The California Cadet Corps

SUMMARY: Authorizes the establishment of independent California Cadet Corps (CACC) units, as specified, establishes uniform standards, and makes other technical and conforming changes. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes the establishment of an independent unit outside of a school, college, or community college under the guidance and control of a sponsoring organization, as provided.
- 2) Authorizes the Adjutant General to appoint staff officers in support of corps operations.
- 3) Decreases the frequency of inspections by requiring the Adjutant General to inspect corps units once every three years or as otherwise provided.
- 4) Authorizes the Governor to appoint officers for the corps, including two deputy commanders and a chief of staff.
- 5) Authorizes the Adjutant General to adopt rules and regulations for the personnel actions of corps officers.
- 6) Specifies the disciplinary authority for independent corps units and would authorize the Commander of the CACC to demote or dismiss a cadet, as specified.
- 7) Authorizes the Adjutant General to order officers of the State Guard, Naval Militia, or California National Guard to temporary state active duty to support the corps, including serving as a marksmanship or military training instructor.
- 8) Authorizes marksmanship as part of corps instruction and would authorize the Adjutant General to purchase and supply rifles to units established outside of a school, college, or community college.
- 9) Authorizes the Adjutant General to enter into a cooperative agreement with a nonprofit public benefit education corporation to, among other things, solicit grants and other funding on behalf of a corps unit.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Permits the students of any college, community college, or school to be organized into a California Cadet Corps company or companies under such rules and regulations as the governing body of the schools or colleges and the Adjutant General of the State of California may prescribe. (Military and Veterans Code (MVC) Section 500)

- 2) Permits each college, community college, or school in which there is not maintained a Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) or Junior R.O.T.C unit to establish a California Cadet Corps company or companies under the rules and regulations as the governing body of the schools and the Adjutant General may prescribe. (MVC Section 501)
- 3) Upon recommendation of the governing board that has jurisdiction over the college, community college, or school, permits the Adjutant General to appoint officers, warrant officers, and noncommissioned officers in the California Cadet Corps for duty as commandants of cadets or assistant commandants of cadets in each college, community college, or school under the jurisdiction of the governing board. (MVC Section 502)
- 4) Provides that except when ordered to state active duty by the Governor, the officers, warrant officers, and noncommissioned officers shall be under the immediate control and jurisdiction of the governing board of the college, community college, or school at which they are on duty, and pay, allowances, and expenses shall be disbursed from funds appropriated for the maintenance and operations of the college, community college, or school where they serve. (MVC Section 502)
- 5) States that each officer, warrant officer, and noncommissioned officer shall hold their appointment at the pleasure of the governing board, or until a successor has been appointed and qualified, or his or her affiliation with the California Cadet Corps is severed. (MVC Section 502)
- 6) Requires the Adjutant General to determine by the adoption of rules and regulations the grade and rank to be held by individuals appointed in the California Cadet Corps by reason of their military experience or professional knowledge, or both. (MVC Section 502.1)
- 7) Permits a person who has previously been an officer, warrant officer, or noncommissioned officer of, and discharged under honorable conditions from, the United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Space Force, the United States Coast Guard, or any reserve component of such federal forces, the California National Guard, the State Guard, or the active militia to be appointed in the California Cadet Corps in the same rank last held in such federal or state military forces. (MVC Section 502.1)
- 8) Specifies that the minimum requirements for the preliminary special subjects teaching credential for the special subject Basic Military Drill includes specified experience as verified by the Adjutant General and the a recommendation from the Adjutant General of the State of California. (Title 5 of the California Code Regulation Section 80037)

FISCAL EFFECT: Pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, the Senate Committee on Appropriations found that any additional state costs are not significant and do not and will not require the appropriation of additional state funds, and the bill will cause no significant reduction in revenues.

COMMENTS: *Double-referral.* SB 1335 (Archuleta) was heard in the Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs on June 10th, 2024, where it passed with unanimous support.

Purpose. According to the author, “SB 1335 will enhance the growth of the California Cadet Corps (CACC), and will permit additional California Cadet Corps programs to be established, ensuring more young Californians have access to this life-changing program. Many of our State’s leaders, including US Attorneys, Judges, Generals, and former Governor Jerry Brown, are former Cadets who learned leadership skills early in their life while in the California Cadet Corps. This measure will provide the California Cadet Corps with additional resources to enhance the program to ensure all students have access to applied leadership opportunities that prepare students for success in college and the workforce.”

Background. The CACC was established in 1911, and is a program of the California Military Department (CMD). The mission of the CACC is to provide California schools and students with a quality educational and leadership development program that prepares students for success in college and the workplace. This program is similar to the J.R.O.T.C. cadet program run by the Department of Defense. Schools can participate in J.R.O.T.C. or CACC, but not both.

There are now CACC programs at more than 90 schools, with an annual total enrollment of more than 5,800 cadets. The CACC is organized into 14 brigades representing different regions of the state. The CMD’s Youth and Community Programs Division provides administrative oversight, logistical support, and manages CACC funds approved by the Legislature, ensuring cadets receive uniforms, supplies, equipment, and training material.

According to the author, there is demand for the establishment of CACC programs outside of educational institutions - which is prohibited under current statute.

Committee staff notes that, while current law authorizes the establishment of CACC programs at California college campuses, there are currently none in operation. According to the CMD, there are 46 programs in California high schools, 33 programs in middle schools, and nine programs in elementary schools.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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