

Date of Hearing: March 17, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 1728 (Alanis) – As Introduced February 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Community colleges: common course numbering system: firefighting and law enforcement education courses

SUMMARY: Includes firefighting and law enforcement education courses in the California Community College (CCC) Common Course Numbering (CCN) system.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the CCC under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state, and specifies that the CCC is comprised of community college districts. (Education Code Section 70900)
- 2) Requires the CCC, on or before July 1, 2027, to adopt a common course numbering system for all general education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses, and requires each community college campus, on or before July 1, 2027, to incorporate common course numbers from the adopted system into its course catalog. (EDC Section 66725.5)
- 3) Establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to set minimum standards for the recruitment and training of peace officers, develop training courses and curriculum, and establish a professional certificate program that awards different levels of certification based on training. (Penal Code Sections 830-832.10 and 13500 et seq.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: *Purpose.* According to the author, “by including fire and law enforcement courses in the Common Course Numbering system, students will [have and easier time locating] these courses across California Community Colleges. Many of the students enrolled in these programs are first responders furthering their education, so establishing consistency in required coursework will prevent them from taking redundant classes and allow for a smoother transfer process.”

Course Identification Numbering System (C-ID) Initiative. AB 1415 (Brulte), Chapter 737, Statutes of 2004, established the existing requirement for the CCC and CSU to establish and utilize a common course numbering system.

According to SB 1415 Senate Floor analysis in 2004, SB 1415 sought “... to facilitate the seamless integration of California's postsecondary education institutions by requiring the adoption and incorporation of a common course numbering system among community college and California State University (CSU) campuses, and requesting adoption and incorporation among the University of California (UC) and independent colleges and universities. This promotes the effective and efficient progression of students within and among the higher education segments and will minimize duplication of coursework. Reducing the duplication of

coursework will save students unnecessary expenses and encourage more efficient use of resources within higher education institutions.”

The requirements of SB 1415 are carried out within the C-ID initiative, which is a collaborative faculty effort involving the CCC and the CSU intended to improve seamless articulation for students both intersegmentally (CCC to CSU) and intrasegmentally (among CCCs). Articulation is the process of developing a formal, written agreement that identifies courses (or sequences of courses) on a ‘sending’ campus that are comparable to, or acceptable in lieu of, specific course requirements at a ‘receiving’ campus. Developed by intersegmental faculty, the C-ID improves course portability, articulation, and plays a key role in developing Transfer Model Curricula.

Colleges participate in the C-ID system by submitting their courses for review to determine alignment with established C-ID descriptors. Once approved, these courses receive a C-ID designation, signaling their comparability to similarly designated courses at other institutions. This process supports the development of Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT), which guarantee admission to a CSU campus for community college students who meet specified criteria.

There are currently 496 active C-ID descriptors, with nearly 30,000 CCC courses with approved alignment.

Common Course Numbering (CCN). AB 1111 (Berman), Chapter 568, Statutes of 2021, required the CCCs to adopt, at all community colleges and for each community college campus catalog, a CCN system. A key element differentiating the CCN system from the C-ID Initiative is that this numbering system is required to be student-facing, and is intended to ensure that comparable courses across all community colleges have the same course number.

The CCN system was approved to be rolled in phases, which include:

- 1) Phase I, which included six templates, was released and became student-facing in the Fall of 2025
- 2) Phase II, which includes 24 templates, has eight templates that were became student-facing for Fall 2026, and 16 templates that will become student-facing in Fall 2027
- 3) Phase III includes 55 templates. These templates underwent informal CSU and UC system office review for content and transferability alignment. Phase III templates will be student-facing for Fall 2027.

Public safety courses. California State Fire Training (SFT) establishes curriculum, certification standards, and training requirements for fire service personnel. The Commission on POST sets minimum selection and training standards for law enforcement officers in accordance with state law. These programs are often delivered through CCC campuses, but are not included in the current CCN structure.

As noted in the author’s background document, many fire and law enforcement personnel pursue associate degrees, advanced certification, and leadership coursework while actively serving their communities. As seen prior to AB 1111 (Berman), variation in course numbering and articulation across institutions often results in duplicated coursework, delayed degree

completion, and administrative barriers for students seeking to transfer or achieve additional credentials.

Arguments in support. Yosemite Community College District, the sponsor of AB 1728, wrote in support of AB 1728 (Alanis), noting that “AB 1728 builds logically and effectively on the successful implementation of AB 1111 (Berman) and AB 928 (Berman) by addressing a long-standing gap in workforce and public safety training. While the existing common course numbering system has significantly reduced confusion and excess unit accumulation for transfer students, it does not currently apply to career technical education pathways, particularly those aligned with [SFT] and [POST]. As a result, firefighters and law enforcement personnel encounter a fragmented and duplicative system in which identical or substantially similar courses carry dozens of different titles and numbers across colleges, despite being built on the same statewide standards.”

“By directing the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to work with colleges and system partners to establish a standardized numbering approach for fire and law enforcement courses, AB 1728 would streamline training, support career advancement, and improve clarity for active-duty public safety employees and the agencies that rely on them. AB 1728 also presents an opportunity to reinforce the integrity and credibility of community college instruction. Fire and law enforcement courses offered by community colleges are rigorous, standardized, and aligned with statewide training expectations. Establishing a common course numbering framework for these programs will reduce unnecessary duplication, improve efficiency, and help ensure that California's public safety workforce can access high-quality, clearly articulated training regardless of where it is delivered.”

Committee comments. The Committee recommends, and the author has accepted, amendments to clarify the timeline and scope of those courses being added to the Common Course Numbering system. These amendments will strike the current language, and instead read:

(c) To streamline training for public safety employees, streamline transfer from two- to four-year postsecondary educational institutions, and reduce excess credit accumulation, on or before July 1, 2030, the common course numbering system shall include firefighting and law enforcement education courses offered in alignment with California State Fire Training and California Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training expectations, as well as courses fulfilling the requirements for the modern policing degree program, as specified in Section 13511.1. of the Penal Code.

These amendments establish a July 1, 2030 deadline to allow for this additional work to be completed outside of the timeline of current CCN phases, clearly articulate the standards these courses must be in alignment with, and would include courses required for a Modern Policing associates degree program established in AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer), Chapter 405, Statutes of 2021.

Prior legislation. AB 3290 (Committee on Higher Education), Chapter 440, Statutes of 2024, extended the implementation deadline by which the CCC are required to adopt common course numbering systems and the deadline by which each CCC campus is required to incorporate common course numbers from the adopted system into its course catalog by three years from 2024 to 2027.

AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer), Chapter 405, Statutes of 2021, requires all peace officers employed by agencies that participate in the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) program, who are not employed in or enrolled in academy for that position as of 2024, to be at least age 21 and meet specified education requirements. The provisions also detail the establishment of a modern policing program associate's degree.

AB 1111 (Berman), Chapter 568, Statutes of 2021, required, by July 1, 2024, the CCCs adopt, at all community colleges and for each community college campus catalog, a common course numbering system. It further requires the common course numbering system to be student-facing and ensure that comparable courses across all community colleges have the same course number.

SB 1155 (Hertzberg, 2020) would have established the Los Angeles CCC Common Course Numbering Pilot Project, and would have required the chancellor to convene a pilot project task force to develop a common course numbering system in the subjects of mathematics and language arts. SB 1155 was held in the Senate Committee on Education due to COVID-19 bill restrictions.

SB 1415 (Brulte), Chapter 737, Statutes of 2004, required the CCC and the CSU, and authorized the UC and the state's private postsecondary institutions, to adopt a common course number system for their 20 majors in highest demand by June 1, 2006. The bill required the BOG of CCC and the CSU Trustees, and requested that the UC Regents, to report to the Legislature by June 30, 2006, on the status of implementing this program and on plans to implement a common course numbering system for all other majors. The bill also required each campus of each segment to incorporate the common numbering system into its next catalog issued after June 1, 2006.

SB 450 (Solis), Chapter 493, Statutes of 1995, required the BOG of the CCC to develop, maintain, and disseminate a common numbering system for use by each community college district. The bill required the office of the Chancellor of the CCC to absorb the costs of developing, maintaining, and disseminating a general common course numbering system within the office's existing resources.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Yosemite Community College District

Opposition

None on file.

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