

Date of Hearing: August 27, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1062 (Levine) – As Amended July 5, 2018

SUBJECT: Postsecondary education: Trustees of the California State University

SUMMARY: Expands existing reporting requirements for the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees related to key performance data on online courses. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Expands, beginning January 15, 2019, the existing requirement for the CSU Trustees to report to the Legislature, by January 15, of every odd numbered year, key performance data on online courses to include:
 - a) Student enrollment (full-time equivalent and headcount) in all state-supported online courses, disaggregated by undergraduate students, as well as by campus;
 - b) Cross-campus online enrollment (full-time equivalent) by host campus;
 - c) Successful course completion rates in cross-campus online courses; and,
 - d) Courses completed by cross-enrolled online students, specifying the type of academic credit they received, including lower division, upper division, or graduate level.
- 2) Specifies that key performance data is to relate to state-supported online courses.
- 3) Specifies that the data on the number of students who are cross-enrolled in online courses is to include the number of full-time equivalent and headcount students.
- 4) Provides that the existing requirement to establish uniform definitions for online education, in measuring the effectiveness of online education, is for the purpose of measuring online education as a tool in system-wide efforts toward degree or certificate completion.
- 5) Strikes references to outdated timelines by which the CSU is to take specified actions related to online courses, and for the Legislative Analyst to complete the report.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Authorizes a California resident enrolled at a CSU campus who meets specified requirements to enroll, without formal admission, in a course provided entirely online by another CSU campus. (Education Code (EDC) Section 66760.5)
- 2) Requires the CSU Trustees, by January 1, 2015, to establish both of the following:
 - a) An easily accessible online database of online courses available at all CSU campuses; and,
 - b) Plans for an intrasystem cross-enrollment process to expedite student learning that will be operational at the beginning of the 2015–16 academic year. (EDC Section 66764)

- 3) Requires the CSU Trustees, by January 1, 2015, for purposes of measuring the effectiveness of online education, to establish a series of uniform definitions for online education. Existing law requires the definitions to, at a minimum, include a system-wide definition for an online course where the course can be entirely completed remotely. (EDC Section 89225)
- 4) Requires the CSU Trustees, by January 1, 2017, and by January 1 every two years thereafter, to report to the Legislature key performance data on online courses including but not limited to all of the following:
 - a) The number of students enrolled at each campus;
 - b) Course completion rates for courses other than online courses;
 - c) Completion rates for degree programs that include no online courses;
 - d) Grade point average for students enrolled in online courses;
 - e) The number of students cross-enrolled in online courses at a CSU campus other than the campus at which they are matriculated;
 - f) Course completion rates for students enrolled in online courses; and,
 - g) Completion rates for degree programs that include online courses. (ESC Section 89226)
- 5) Requires the CSU Trustees, by January 1, 2017, to report to the Legislative Analyst the key performance data described in # 4. (EDC Section 89226)
- 6) Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), by January 1, 2018, to submit a status update to the Legislature regarding CSU's implementation of creating an accessible online database of online courses, plans for an intrasystem cross-enrollment system, and establishing uniform definitions for online education, a report on key performance data. Existing law also requires the LAO to include in the report an assessment of the extent to which the online programs of the CSU are operating in a manner consistent with legislative intent and statutory requirements. (EDC Section 89226)

FISCAL EFFECT: The bill passed out of the Senate Committee on Appropriations pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8.

COMMENTS: *Purpose.* According to the author, "Chapter 362 of 2013 (AB 386, Levine) requires CSU to improve students' access to online courses by creating a streamlined process for students to find, enroll in, and receive credit for online coursework offered by any CSU campus. The bill required CSU to report biennially on certain enrollment and performance data related to online education. On January 3, 2018, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released a report based on the bill's requirements."

"The report recommended additional enrollment and performance data. They found that CSU still has more work to do in order to comply with requirements of Chapter 363, particularly through developing a more student-friendly database of online courses. AB 1062 ensures the

CSU online programs are continuously improved and evaluated in order to meet the student's needs.”

Recommendations made by the LAO. The LAO issued a report in January 2018, titled *An Evaluation of CSU's Cross-Campus Online Education Program*. This report includes a recommendation to require CSU to report on four areas:

- 1) Actions related to boosting cross-campus online enrollment.
- 2) Adopting a common learning management system.
- 3) Additional data on enrollment and key performance data on online education, including the exact information added by this bill.
- 4) More information on online baccalaureate degree completion programs.

Prior legislation. AB 386 (Levine), Chapter 326 of 2016, authorized any CSU student enrolled at a CSU campus, who meets specified requirements, to enroll in an online course provided by another CSU campus; requires the CSU Trustees to establish an easily accessible online database of these courses by January 1, 2015; requires the CSU Trustees to report key performance data on online courses, as specified, to the Legislature by January 1, 2017, and every two years thereafter; and on or before January 1, 2017, requires the Trustees to report the performance data to the Legislative Analyst, as specified.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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