

Date of Hearing: April 25, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 1311 (Soria) – As Amended April 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: allied health programs: assessment

SUMMARY: Requires the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) to conduct an assessment, on or before January 1, 2025, evaluating the efficacy of existing programs in allied health jointly offered between campuses of the California Community Colleges (CCC), California State University (CSU), and University of California (UC). Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) The Legislative Analyst’s Office shall conduct an assessment, on or before January 1, 2025, evaluating the efficacy of existing programs in allied health, including, but not limited to, nursing, jointly offered between campuses of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California.
- 2) The results of the final assessment shall be reported, in writing, to the Legislature and the Governor on or before January 1, 2025. The final assessment shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:
 - a) The total number of joint programs currently implemented, including information identifying the number of programs, applicants, admissions, enrollments, and degree recipients;
 - b) The extent to which existing allied health programs fulfill identified workforce shortages, including statewide supply and demand data that considers capacity at the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and California’s independent colleges and universities;
 - c) Information on the job placement of graduates;
 - d) Joint allied health program costs and the funding sources that were used to finance these programs;
 - e) Time-to-degree rates and completion rates for students in joint allied health programs; and,
 - f) Recommendations on whether and how joint, intersegmental allied health programs can or should be extended and expanded.
- 3) The report submitted pursuant to subdivision (b) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.
- 4) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the UC as a public trust to be administered by the Regents of the UC; and, grants the Regents full powers of organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to ensure security of its funds, compliance with the terms of its endowments, statutory requirements around competitive bidding and contracts, sales of property and the purchase of materials, goods and services (Article IX, Section (9)(a) of the California Constitution).
- 2) Establishes the Donahoe Higher Education Act, setting forth the mission of the UC, California State University (CSU), and California Community Colleges (CCC) (Education Code (EDC) Section 66010, et seq.).
- 3) Confers upon the CSU Trustees the powers, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, control of the CSU system and provides that the Trustees are responsible for the rule of government of their appointees and employees (EDC Sections 66606 and 89500, et seq.).
- 4) 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. The CCC shall be comprised of community college districts (EDC Section 70900).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: *Purpose.* The author noted that “AB 1311 seeks to ensure existing programs in allied health jointly offered between campuses of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California are meeting the workforce needs of the state and in particular the healthcare workforce needs in the San Joaquin Valley (SJV). In the Central Valley district I represent, Madera Community Hospital recently closed its doors - shutting down the only hospital for Madera County’s roughly 150,000 residents. Now, hardworking farmworkers and many other community members – one-fifth of whom live in poverty – must travel 20 miles or more to receive emergency care and other hospital services. During a medical emergency, every second counts. Madera Community Hospital has been vital to protecting public health in the region and was the first to treat a COVID-19 patient in the Central Valley. Yet, without emergency financial assistance, the hospital was unfortunately forced to close – severely impacting local access to health care and displacing the medical workforce.”

“The SJV has long-standing shortages of physicians and other health care professionals. The recent SJV health workforce assessment conducted by UCSF finds that the region has the lowest ratios of licensed MDs, DOs, NPs, RNs, marriage and family therapists, licensed counselors, and licensed social workers per 100,000 population in California and the second lowest ratios of PAs, CNs, and psychologists per capita. These and other findings described in the UCSF workforce assessment show that action will be needed to ensure that the SJV has sufficient supplies of health professionals for meeting its future needs.”

Budget priorities. The Governor proposed multiyear budget plans for each of the segments in his 2022-23 budget. Though the Legislature did not codify these multiyear plans, the Governor’s 2023-24 higher education budget proposals are consistent with them. The largest component of these plans is annual unrestricted base increases. These base increases are loosely linked with performance expectations in certain areas, including student access, success, and equity; intersegmental coordination; and workforce alignment. Per the multiyear agreements, the

segments are to report their performance in these areas each year through 2026. This report is aligned with the compacts, as part of the compacts is to have intersegmental work on health pathways.

Committee comments. The CSU and CCC have both significantly expanded their statutory authority to offer independent degrees since CSU was granted the ability to offer independent Doctor of Education degrees by SB 724 (Scott) Chapter 269, Statutes of 2005. Despite this expanded authority, each of the segments currently partner with others to offer joint degree programs at a regional level. Given the interest by the Governor and the Legislature in supporting intersegmental coordination through multi-year funding, an exploration of joint programs seems warranted and timely.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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