

Date of Hearing: April 2, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1504 (Medina) – As Amended March 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Community colleges: student representation fee: statewide community college student organization: goals.

SUMMARY: Requires the California Community College (CCC), to collect, if a student body association (SBA) has been established, a student representation fee (SRF) of \$2 at the time of registration per semester or quarter; requires that \$1 of the fee be expended to establish and support the operation of a statewide community college organization for all SRFs collected, rather than just for SRFs adopted on or after January 1, 2014; and, makes clarifying and technical changes to existing law.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Authorizes the governing board of a community college district to authorize the students of a college to organize a student body association (Education Code (EC) Section 76060).
- 2) Authorizes the governing body of an established student association to hold an election for the purpose of establishing a student representation fee of \$2 per semester. Specifies that the affirmative vote of a majority of the CCC students voting in the election shall be sufficient to establish the fee, but the number of students who vote must equal or exceed the average number of students who voted in the previous three student body elections. Requires that \$1 of every \$2 fee collected shall be expended to establish and support the operations of a statewide community college student organization, recognized by the CCC Board of Governors, with effective student representation and participation in state-level community college shared governance and with governmental affairs representatives to advocate before the Legislature and other state and local governmental entities. Specifies that the additional fees collected, as aforementioned, only apply to SRFs adopted on or after January 1, 2014. Specifies students may refuse to pay the fee for religious, political, financial or moral reasons. Specifies that the community college district may retain a portion of the fees collected and deposited, that is equal to the actual cost of administering the fees up to, but not more than 7% (EC Section 76060.5).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Background.* As each of the 115 campuses of the CCC have their own elections and procedures and requirements for items to be placed on the ballot, it has become extremely difficult for most campuses to implement the SRF (as described in the “Existing Law” section of this analysis). The current fee implementation method leaves the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) unable to effectively function as an organization.

According to information provided by the author, the SSCCC works with less than \$0.03 per student, compared to the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) student organizations who operate with \$3.12 and \$3.38 respectively, per student.

Additionally, unlike the UC and CSU student organizations, the SSSCC has very limited presence in the Legislature. Committee Staff notes that in some years, SSSCC had no presence in the Legislature; thus leaving the voices of the over 2.1 million students who attend a CCC, voiceless; or with little to no ability to advocate for legislation that directly affect CCC students.

To note, SSSCC is a completely student-run organization, with virtually no professional support. Due to the structure of the SSSCC and inadequate funding (as aforementioned), the SSSCC has become increasingly reliant and dependent on the CCC Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to advocate for their needs.

Need for the measure. According to the author, "The voice of CCC students should not be held by the CCCCCO but by the statewide student organization". The author contends that, "Student leaders need more administrative support both at the statewide level and at the regional level".

This measure seeks to ensure that the \$2 SRF is implemented at all CCCs by collecting the SRF from all students upon payment of registration fees and without the need for a campus wide election.

To note, this measure retains a provision in existing law, whereby a CCC student can opt out of the paying the SRF for religious, political, financial or moral reasons.

Previous legislation. AB 1358 (Fong), Chapter 714, Statutes of 2013, in part, authorized organized CCC student body associations to hold campus-wide elections in order to potentially increase the SRF from \$1 per semester to \$2 to fund governmental affairs representatives for the CCC students and changed the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the students voting in the election to establish the SRF to a majority of students voting.

AB 2756 (Hayden), Chapter 1238, Statutes of 1987, established the original SRF.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Student Senate for California Community Colleges (Co-Sponsor)
Public Advocates
1 Individual

Opposition

None on file.

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