

Date of Hearing: January 7, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1512 (Carrillo) – As Amended January 6, 2020

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: community colleges: course credit for passage of International Baccalaureate examination

SUMMARY: Requires the California Community College (CCC) Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC), to develop a policy relating to awarding academic credit for a score of four or more on an International Baccalaureate (IB) subject examination. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the CCCCCO, in collaboration with the ASCCC, to develop a policy relating to awarding academic credit for a score of four or more on an IB subject examination.
- 2) Requires the policy be implemented in time for the entering class in the fall 2021 academic term, and if that policy is not implemented, the bill would require the implementation, commencing with the 2021–22 academic year, of the IB policy adopted by the California State University (CSU).
- 3) The bill would require that the most recent policy adopted under the bill be posted by each community college campus on its internet website.
- 4) Provides that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made as specified.
- 5) Makes various findings and declarations, as specified.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the CCC, under the administration of the Board of Governors (BOG) of the CCC, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. (Education Code (EDC) Section 70901)
- 2) Establishes that the Chancellor of the CCC is selected by the BOG to serve as the chief executive officer of the segment. (EDC Section 71090)
- 3) Requires the CCCCCO to begin development of, and requires each community college district to begin adoption and implementation of, a uniform policy to award a pupil who passes an Advanced Placement (AP) examination course credit for certain requirements in a course with subject matter similar to that of the AP examination, and requires each community college campus to post the most recent policy on its internet website. Specifies that, if a policy is not implemented by fall 2017, the California Community Colleges are required to adopt and implement, commencing with the 2017–18 academic year, the AP policy adopted by the California State University (CSU). (EDC Section 79500)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Need for the bill.* According to the author, “Assembly Bill 1985 (Williams) required the development of a uniform policy at CCCs for awarding credit for AP examinations, but until AB 1512 no similar legislation created a similar requirement relative to IB programs and examinations. As the governing board of a community college district may adopt policies to grant credit for satisfactory completion of IB exams, but is not required to do so. IB credit is both sparse and inconsistent throughout our community colleges system. As a result, without an established and clear policy for awarding IB exam credits, students not only run the risk of losing the college credit they earned through their IB scores, they are also often forced to retake introductory courses despite having already demonstrated proficiency through their scores.”

“The lack of a uniform policy regarding academic credit for passage of an IB examination has often been an academic and financial barrier for students enrolling at campuses of the California Community Colleges and is an obstacle to transfer. Thus, the Legislature must establish a uniform IB credit policy for general education within the California Community Colleges.”

IB Diploma Programme. There are over 1,300 public high schools in California, with nearly 100 public schools offering the “IB Diploma Programme”. Students in this course of study take a series of examinations across six subject groups, with the goal of earning the 24 points necessary to the IB Diploma. Like the AP program, many colleges award course credit for the completion of an IB exam.

A 2015 study, titled *International Baccalaureate National Trends for Low-Income Students 2008–2014*, noted that 60% of low-income candidates and 80% of higher-income candidates in a Diploma program scored well enough to earn course credit at most colleges and universities. Even amongst those students not explicitly enrolled in the Diploma program, 20% of low-income students and 40% of higher income students would earn high enough scores on IB assessments to earn college credit.

CCC BOG Title V actions. The author and committee staff have been in contact with the CCCCCO, which is in the process of developing and implementing a uniform IB credit policy for the CCC campuses. CCCCCO staff anticipates the proposed Title 5 changes will be heard for first reading by the BOG during its March 16-17 meeting, and adoption during its May 18-19 meeting. It appears this bill is consistent with the changes being recommended by BOG.

Prior Legislation. AB 1985 (Williams), Chapter 513, Statutes of 2016, requires the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges (CCC), in collaboration with the Academic Senate of the CCC, to develop a uniform policy to award credit, as specified, to a student with a minimum AP test score of 3, and requires each CCC district to adopt the policy.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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