

Date of Hearing: April 17, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 2933 (Medina) – As Amended April 9, 2018

[Note: This bill is doubled referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee and will be heard by that Committee as it relates to issues under its jurisdiction.]

SUBJECT: Public social services: county liaison for higher education

SUMMARY: Requires county social service agencies to establish liaisons for assisting community college students. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires a county welfare agency, or any other county agency responsible for social services, health services, or behavioral services to designate an agency liaison for higher education.
- 2) Requires the agency liaison per (1) to be the single point of contact within the agency for academic counselors and other relevant staff at community colleges within the county and to provide resource and referral information regarding relevant programs under the agency's jurisdiction to community college students who have expressed a need that might be met by those services.
- 3) Encourages county agencies subject to the above to consult with community colleges within the county to best determine how the liaison can assist college staff in meeting students' needs.

EXISTING LAW: Establishes community college districts, governed by boards of elected trustees. (Education Code Section 72000, et seq.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Purpose.* According to the author, community college counselors primarily provide academic advising and career counseling to a diverse and often low-income student body. In their role, counselors hear from students dealing with various social and economic problems, such as homelessness, food insecurity, and mental health issues. Despite their desire to connect such students with appropriate county-funded and/or county-administered services, many counselors do not have the time or expertise to navigate county government for this purpose.

AB 2933, sponsored by the Faculty Association of the California Community Colleges (FACCC), simply requires county social service agencies to designate a liaison to serve as the point of contact for community college staff seeking to link needy students with county services for which they might be eligible. This approach should streamline the work of counselors, relieving them of having to navigate the entire bureaucratic structure of a county agency, and instead to call upon a single designated person deemed as the county agency's expert regarding college students.

A model exists to some extent for this bill in Orange County, which has established an educational liaison to serve as a single point of contact for the CalWORKs student population.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

FACCC (sponsor)

Opposition

None on file.

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