

Date of Hearing: April 17, 2018

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 3101 (Carrillo) – As Introduced February 16, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Community colleges

**SUMMARY:** Requires the Board of Governors (BOG) of the California Community Colleges (CCC), on or before July 31, 2019, to revise the CCCApply application and enrollment process so that only data that is required by the federal government, or that is otherwise necessary, is collected during the process. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires that, on or before July 31, 2019, the BOG shall revise the CCCApply application and enrollment process so that only data that is required by the federal government, or that is otherwise necessary, as determined by the board, is collected during the process. To the extent that data can be collected from the student at a later time, the board shall delay the collection of that data until after the student is enrolled.
- 2) Makes findings and declarations, including:
  - a) The system by which students apply to community colleges is known to be cumbersome and create a barrier to access for many students who are seeking to access community college;
  - b) The application process can take a student hours to complete due to the amount of information it requests; and,
  - c) The state has documented a significant abandonment rate in regards to the number of students who begin the application process, but fail to complete it. Consequently, many students fail to complete the process and never enroll.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Differentiates the missions and functions of public and independent institutions of higher education. Under these provisions:
  - a) The primary mission of the California State University (CSU) is required to offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree. The CSU is authorized to establish two-year programs only when mutually agreed upon by the Trustees and the CCC Board of Governors. The CSU is also authorized to jointly award the doctoral degree with the University of California (UC), and with one or more independent institutions of higher education.
  - b) The UC is authorized to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and has exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education over graduate instruction in the professions of law, medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine. The UC is also the primary state-supported academic agency for research.

- c) The independent institutions of higher education are required to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and research in accordance with their respective missions.
- d) The mission and function of the CCC is the offering of academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level and the CCC are authorized to grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degree. The community colleges are also required to offer remedial instruction, English as a Second Language instruction, and adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level. (Education Code Section 66010.4)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown.

**COMMENTS:** *Need for the bill.* According to the author, “The system by which students enroll in the Community College system is known to be cumbersome and creates a barrier for access to many students. This process does not need to be complicated or difficult to complete, given the fact that the Community Colleges accept 100 [percent] of the students eligible to enroll. This bill would require the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to revise the lengthy and complicated CCCApply application so that it is accessible and efficient for all applicants.”

*Background.* Since 2001, CCCApply has served over 10 million students applying to one or more of 114 California Community Colleges, generating over one million submitted applications per year. In 2011, the CCCApply master development contract between the CCC Chancellor's Office and the Xap Corporation expired, allowing the CCC Technology Center to develop a new version of CCCApply and a statewide student account system called OpenCCC.

In their 2017 annual report, the CCC Technology Center noted that research was being conducted due to concerns from the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) and from individual campuses “regarding the length of the Standard application, and that students may be abandoning the application due the length.” The 2017 Annual Report also noted that the CCC Academic Senate had raised concerns that the current application “creates barriers for [non-credit] students, both in regards to the lengthy process, as well as the overall relevance of the questions for this population.”

*CCCApply Abandonment Report.* The CCC Technology Center released a “CCCApply Application Abandonment Report” in February of 2017. That report found that, from 2012-2016, the average application abandonment rate was 5.13%. The colleges with the highest abandonment rate range from 7% to 11% abandonment, and some of those colleges with the highest rates are located in communities with low college attainment rates. The report also observed that “personal information” page on CCCApply was the area where students were most likely to abandon their application, with a 23% abandonment rate observed on average.

Recommendations in the report are generally consistent with the provisions of AB 3101. The report noted that the CCC Technology Center “...may want to pursue a review toward removing any non-essential personal and/or education-related questions. The net effect of this action would be to reduce application complexity, thereby also improving the student application experience.”

*Arguments in support.* Several CCC districts have expressed their support for this legislation. The sponsor of this legislation, the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), noted that, “...the current CCCApply application is difficult to complete for prospective students and

an estimated average of 5% have to abandon the effort. Unfortunately, that percentage trends closer to 10% at the highest abandonment colleges, including several in the [LACCD]. These trends deter tens of thousands of students from starting their educational journey. This worsens an education shortage that California cannot afford.”

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

Cerritos Community College District  
Coastline Community College  
Community College League of California  
Contra Costa Community College District  
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges  
Foothill-DeAnza Community College District  
Golden West Community College  
Kern Community College District  
Lassen Community College District  
Los Angeles Community College District (Sponsor)  
Los Rios Community College District  
North Orange Community College District  
Orange Coast College  
Peralta Community College District  
San Bernardino Community College District  
Solano Community College District  
Southwestern Community College District

**Opposition**

None on file

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