



December 19, 2013

### OVERVIEW

The State Legislature adjourned for 2013 on September 13, 2013, and will reconvene on January 6, 2014, for the start of the second year of the two-year session. Legislation introduced in 2013 that was not heard in a policy committee, must be heard by January 13, if the measure has a fiscal effect. Several bills are scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee on January 7, 2014, and other committee hearings may be scheduled in the coming weeks. After the 2014 bill introduction deadline in February, policy committee hearings for these newly introduced bills will be scheduled beginning in March.

Please also find the attached legislative matrix, which is in priority order. Brief summaries are provided below for selected measures in our top level, Tier 1. For details and copies of any bill, please contact the Government Relations division of the Chancellor's Office or visit the Legislative Counsel's website at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- **AB 51 (Logue) CSU BA Degree Pilot Program.** AB 51 creates a pilot program between high schools, community colleges and California State University campuses in up to seven areas of the state to enable students to earn a baccalaureate degree in a field of science, engineering, technology or math (STEM) for \$10,000. The author is trying to address the high cost of postsecondary education as well as the need to produce more graduates in STEM related fields. AB 51 was introduced last year along with a companion measure, AB 181, which would create a \$20,000 STEM field baccalaureate degree through the University of California system. Both bills were introduced last year but were not heard in a committee.
  - Status: AB 51 will be heard in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education on January 7, 2013.
- **AB 181 (Logue) UC Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program.** AB 181 creates a pilot program to enable students to earn a baccalaureate degree in a STEM field for \$20,000. This bill was introduced last year along with a companion measure, AB 51.
  - Status: AB 181 will be heard in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education on January 7, 2013.

### FACULTY

- **AB 675 (Fong) Employment of Faculty.** AB 675 would provide that when determining faculty member's shall be deemed to have completed the second, third, or fourth contract year, as appropriate, if the faculty member provides service for a percentage of the academic year as is required in an agreement between the governing board of the district and the exclusive representative of the faculty member. Time spent on paid leave of absence, including, but not limited to, paid or unpaid maternity leave, shall be included in computing service if the

faculty member serves sufficient time during the year to allow for the evaluation of the faculty member as required by any negotiated evaluation procedure.

- Status: AB 675 will be heard on January 7th in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

#### **FISCAL ISSUES, FUNDING, ETC.**

- **AB 977 (Salas) Community College Differential Funding Workgroup.** AB 977 requests the California Community College Chancellor's Office to convene a working group of experts to research and recommend ways to implement differential funding for credit-bearing high-cost, high-demand courses and programs. The group will report its findings to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2016.
  - Status: AB 977 will be heard on January 14th in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

#### **NURSING**

- **AB 548 (Salas) Nursing Programs: Community Colleges.** This bill would delete the sunset provision in Education Code Section 78261.5 of January 1, 2016. Originally introduced by AB 1559 (Berryhill) in 2007, Section 78261.5 authorizes a set of criteria added to the screening process for applying to nursing programs. The reasoning for the multicriteria addition was to allow for a more diverse field of candidates while improving the passing rate for the nursing licensing exam and improving the chances for successful completion in community college nursing programs.
  - Status: AB 548 will be heard on January 14th in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

#### **TUITION, FEES, FINANCIAL AID**

- **AB 138 (Olsen) Public Postsecondary Education: Tuition and Fees.** AB 138 adds a provision to the Donahue Higher Education Act requiring the Trustees of the California State University and Regents of the University of California, if they act by appropriate resolution, to determine the amounts of undergraduate tuition and mandatory systemwide fees for California residents in each incoming first-year class. The bill requires that the tuition and mandatory systemwide fees set for California residents in each incoming first-year class under the bill would not be increased until that class has completed at least 4 academic years.
  - Status: AB 138 will be heard in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education on Tuesday, January 7, 2014.
- **AB 330 (Chau) Student Financial Aid: Disclosures.** AB 330 requires postsecondary education institutions participating in the state's Cal Grant Program to report their average student loan debt of graduates to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). The CSAC is required to post this data on its Internet Web site in a searchable database. The bill specifically calls for CSAC to provide a glossary on its Internet Website explaining the meanings of various financial aid terms to include private student loan, federal direct loan, grant, and scholarship. For-profit institutions that are required by federal law to provide their students with a School Performance Fact Sheet are also required to include current information about the average student debt of its graduates on their Fact Sheet.

- Status: AB 330 will be heard in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education on Tuesday, January 7, 2014.

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