



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

December 9, 2015

### OVERVIEW

The Legislature has been on recess since September 11, 2015, and by the January 19-20, 2016, Board of Governors meeting, three key dates will have passed that are still ahead at the time of this writing. The Legislature will have reconvened on January 4, 2016, and most importantly, the Governor will have introduced his budget by January 10, 2016. The other key date is January 15, 2016, when legislation introduced last year that has a fiscal effect (cost) will have to have passed the policy committee in the house that introduced the measure. This means that bills on the matrix that were listed as two-year bills and were not heard last year must pass in the Assembly Higher Education Committee, the Senate Education Committee or other appropriate committee or move no further.

Because the Legislature operates in a two-year session, many of last year's bills are still viable. Until key dates pass in 2016, bills from 2015 still have a chance to pass. Bills that were almost at the Governor's desk, but were pulled back before being sent to him, can move forward late in the legislative session. The bill deadlines apply to the bill number not the substance of the bill, so we have to be on alert for possible "gut-and-amends" (bills that are amended with entirely new content) right up to the end of session. While many of the two-year bills are still viable as "vehicles" for other subjects, we expect to see a number of new bills introduced by the February 19, 2016, deadline. Persistence pays off in the Capitol, and many of the same bill concepts have been reintroduced every year for the past several years. One of these reintroduced bills may successfully pass because of a new committee chair, new staff, a new author, a change in the economy, etc.

For details and copies of any bill, please contact the External Relations Division of the Chancellor's Office or visit the Legislative Counsel's website at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov> or its new website at: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>. The new website allows you to compare prior versions of the measure, review proposed changes in the law as amended, etc.

### BILLS OF INTEREST

#### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- **AB 288 (Holden) Public Schools: College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Partnerships.** AB 288 (Holden) encourages an expansion of voluntary dual enrollment partnerships by reducing fiscal penalties and policy barriers that currently limit such collaborations. The bill authorizes a community college district and K-12 school district to enter into a formal CCAP partnership with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to community college for career technical education or preparation for transfer, helping high school students achieve college and career readiness, and improving high school graduation rates. AB 288 (Holden) passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee with amendments to prevent oversubscribed courses from being offered through the partnership.
  - Position: Sponsor/Support
  - Status: AB 288 (Holden) was signed into law by the Governor.

- **AB 542 (Wilk) Community Colleges: Early and Middle College High Schools.** AB 542 (Wilk) exempts Early College High School (ECHS) and Middle College High School (MCHS) students from the lowest priority enrollment consideration. The bill allows a community college to claim state apportionments for MCHS and ECHS students enrolled in physical education courses beyond the 5 percent statutory cap and exempts these students from the 10 percent cap regarding enrollment in community college summer courses.
  - Status: AB 542 (Wilk) was “held” in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 770 (Irwin) Community Colleges: Basic Skills and Innovation Strategies.** The Budget Act included language from earlier versions of AB 770 (Irwin) to create the Community Colleges Basic Skills Innovation Program. Following enactment of the State Budget, AB 770 (Irwin) was amended to add clarifications to this new program regarding application criteria, administration, and technical assistance.
  - Status: AB 770 (Irwin) was “held” in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **SB 172 (Liu) Pupil Testing: High School Exit Examination: Suspension.** SB 172 (Liu) suspends the requirement to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) as a condition of receiving a high school diploma through the 2017-18 school year because the CAHSEE exam is not aligned with the new Common Core State Standards. The CAHSEE contract was suspended as of July 1, 2015, which left approximately 5,000 high school “graduates” for the 2015 school year with no opportunity to take the test. This outcome resulted in questions about the impact of SB 172 (Liu) on admission to community colleges, access to the BOG Fee Waiver, and access to the Cal Grant and Pell programs. SB 172 (Liu) passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee with amendments to authorize local education authorities to award degrees without the exam requirement, and to add a sunset date.
  - Status: SB 172 (Liu) was signed into law by the Governor.
- **SB 725 (Hancock) Pupil Testing: High School Exit Examination: Exemption.** SB 725 (Hancock) applies to the 2015 high school graduating class and removes the requirement that seniors pass the California High School Exit Examination as a condition of graduation from high school if they have met all other requirements for high school graduation. The bill contains an urgency clause allowing the provisions of this bill to take effect immediately.
  - Status: SB 725 (Hancock) was signed into law by the Governor.
- **SB 786 (Allen) Adult Education: Regional Consortia.** SB 786 (Allen) provides that specified joint powers authorities which provide adult career technical education be eligible for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding through adult education.
  - Status: SB 786 (Allen) was “held” in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

#### **CAMPUS CLIMATE/CAMPUS SAFETY**

- **AB 340 (Weber) Postsecondary Education: Campus Climate Report.** AB 340 (Weber) declares the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation requiring governing bodies of the higher education systems to submit a report once every two years to the legislature on campus climate. The Chancellor's Office report is contingent on information received from colleges.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: AB 340 (Weber) was vetoed by the Governor.
  - Included in the Governor’s veto message:
 

*“While I understand the desire to create a more vibrant, intellectually serious and inclusive campus environment at UC, CSU and the community colleges, each of their governing boards has already taken steps aimed at achieving these important goals.”*
- **AB 636 (Medina) Student Safety.** AB 636 (Medina) authorizes postsecondary education institutions to disclose the identity of a student or employee who is accused of a violent crime,

sexual assault, or hate crime to local law enforcement if the institution determines that the alleged assailant represents a serious and ongoing threat to the safety of persons or the institution and if the immediate assistance of police is necessary to contact or detain the assailant. AB 1433 (Gatto), signed into law last year, requires colleges to report serious crimes to local law enforcement if the crimes occur on campus or involve students or employees. While AB 1433 (Gatto) included language prohibiting the disclosure of the accused assailant's identity to local law enforcement if the victim declined to be identified, AB 636 (Medina) allows colleges to identify the accused (not the victim) if the college determines that the accused assailant poses a serious and ongoing threat to campus safety.

- Status: AB 636 (Medina) was signed into law by the Governor.
- **AB 767 (Santiago) Community Colleges: Emergency Preparedness Standards.** AB 767 (Santiago) requires the Chancellor's Office to update emergency preparedness standards by January 1, 2017 and every 5 years thereafter and to consider including an active shooter response plan.
  - Status: AB 767 (Santiago) was signed into law by the Governor.
- **AB 913 (Santiago) Student Safety.** AB 913 (Santiago) expands written agreements between colleges and local law enforcement agencies to clarify operational responsibilities for investigations to include sexual assault and hate crimes.
  - Status: AB 913 (Santiago) was signed into law by the Governor.
- **AB 967 (Williams) Student Safety.** AB 967 (Williams) requires the governing board of each community college district to adopt and carry out a uniform process for disciplinary proceedings relating to any claims of sexual assault.
  - Position: Neutral
  - Status: AB 967 (Williams) was vetoed by the Governor.
- **AB 968 (Williams) Transcripts: Expulsion Note.** AB 968 (Williams) requires the governing board of each community college district to indicate on a student's transcript when the student is ineligible to reenroll due to suspension or expulsion for the period of time the student is ineligible to reenroll.
  - Status: AB 968 (Williams) was vetoed by the Governor.
  - Included in the Governor's veto message:  
*"I don't think it is necessary at this point for the state to directly insert itself into the disciplinary and governing processes of all private nonprofit and public colleges in California."*
- **AB 969 (Williams) Community College: Removal, Suspension, Expulsion.** AB 969 (Williams) authorizes a district to deny or permit conditional access to a student found responsible for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. The bill would also allow a district to require a student seeking admission to disclose any past expulsions for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking; failure to do so may be considered by the community college district in determining whether to grant admission.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: AB 969 (Williams) was placed in the Senate's inactive file.
- **SB 186 (Jackson) Community College Districts: Removal, Suspension, or Expulsion.** SB 186 (Jackson) clarifies that state law does not prohibit districts from taking disciplinary action against students for off campus behavior if the district is doing so to comply with federal law, such as the Clery Act, Title IX, Violence Against Women Act, etc. SB 186 (Jackson) also adds sexual assault to the list of "good cause" reasons to remove, suspend, or expel a student and defines sexual assault for those purposes. The definitions used in this bill are those provided by the White House's Task Force on Campus Sexual Assault.

- Position: Support
- Status: SB 186 (Jackson) was signed into law by the Governor.

## FACULTY

- **AB 626 (Low) Community College: Employees.** AB 626 (Low) requires the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to convene a group of stakeholders on or before July 1, 2016, and every four years thereafter, to develop recommendations on funding strategies to enable the community colleges to achieve the 75 percent standard and increase district participation in the support of part-time faculty. The bill requires the Chancellor's Office to report these recommendations to the Legislature.
  - Status: AB 626 (Low) did not meet legislative deadlines.
- **AB 1010 (Medina) Community Colleges: Part-Time, Temporary Employees.** AB 1010 (Medina) specifies minimum standards for the treatment of part-time, temporary faculty to be met by community college collective bargaining agreements. The bill urges community college districts without a collective bargaining agreement in effect as of January 1, 2016 to negotiate with the exclusive representatives for part-time, temporary faculty regarding the terms and conditions required by the bill.
  - Status: AB 1010 (Medina) was "held" in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## FINANCE AND FUNDING

- **SB 605 (Gaines) Community Colleges: Nonresident Tuition Exemption for Nevada Students.** SB 605 (Gaines) exempts up to 200 students in any academic year from paying non-resident tuition fees if they attend the Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) and reside in certain communities in Nevada and permits the LTCC to count these persons as resident full-time equivalent students (FTES) for purposes of determining apportionment funding. This bill makes these provisions contingent upon the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges entering into an interstate attendance agreement with the Nevada System of Higher Education providing reciprocal rights to California residents attending Western Nevada College.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: SB 605 (Gaines) was signed into law by the Governor.

## GOVERNANCE

- **AB 404 (Chiu) Community Colleges: Accreditation.** AB 404 (Chiu) requires the California Community College Chancellor's Office to survey all 113 community colleges, regarding the evaluation of the current regional community college accrediting agency. The survey will be used by the Chancellor's Office to develop a report that reflects a system-wide evaluation of the regional accrediting agency based on the criteria used to determine an accreditor's status. The report will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education and the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.
  - Status: AB 404 (Chiu) was signed into law by the Governor.
- **AB 986 (Gipson) Community Colleges: Compton Community College District.** AB 986 (Gipson) requires the Chancellor to report to the Legislature concerning the priorities identified in each Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team report and to provide a response on how the Chancellor intends to resolve the issues identified in the report in a timely manner.
  - Status: AB 986 (Gipson) passed in the Assembly and was sent to the Senate but was not heard in a policy committee in time to meet legislative deadlines.
- **AB 1385 (Ting) Community College: Accreditation.** AB 1385 (Ting) prohibits the accrediting agency from imposing a special assessment on community colleges to pay for the accrediting agency's legal fees for any lawsuit unless there has been an affirmative vote of the majority of the

chief executive officers, or their designees, of all of the community colleges. The bill would excuse compliance with this prohibition if the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges determines that the accrediting agency's compliance would violate federal law.

- Status: AB 1385 (Ting) was placed in the Senate's inactive file.
- **AB 1397 (Ting) Community College: Accreditation.** AB 1397 (Ting) enacts the California Community Colleges Fair Accreditation Act of 2015. It requires that at least 50 percent of each visiting accreditation team from the accrediting agency for the California Community Colleges be composed of academic personnel as defined in the bill. The bill prohibits persons with a conflict of interest from serving on a visiting accreditation team. The bill requires the accrediting agency to conduct the meetings of its decision-making body to ensure the ability of members of the public to attend those meetings. AB 1397 (Ting) also requires the accrediting agency to preserve all documents generated during an accreditation-related review. AB 1397 (Ting) requires the agency's accreditation-related decisions to be based on written, published standards in accordance with state and federal statutes and regulations.
  - Status: AB 1397 (Ting) was placed in the Senate's inactive file.
- **SB 42 (Liu) Commission on Higher Education Performance.** Although Governor Brown deleted funding for the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) years ago, statutes referring to CPEC remain. SB 42 (Liu) revises these statutes and creates the California Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability. The executive director of the proposed office would be appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate. A six-member advisory board would be established with three members each appointed by the Assembly Speaker and Senate Rules Committee. SB 42 (Liu) excludes representatives from postsecondary institutions from serving on the advisory board. SB 42 (Liu) passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee with amendments that stipulate the advisory board members will not be paid; that the Assembly Higher Education Chair and Senate Education Committee Chair be appointed to the advisory board; that require an annual report to the Governor on higher education; that require an annual performance review of the executive director; and that require the office to review cross segmental initiatives for future study.
  - Position: Concern
  - Status: SB 42 (Liu) was vetoed by the Governor.
  - Included in the Governor's veto message:

*"While there is much work to be done to improve higher education, I am not convinced we need a new office and an advisory board, especially of the kind this bill proposes, to get the job done."*
- **SCA 1 (Lara) University of California: Legislative Control.** SCA 1 proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to repeal the constitutional provisions relating to the University of California and the regents. This measure subjects the university and the regents to legislative control as may be provided by statute. SCA 1 prohibits the Legislature from enacting any law that restrains academic freedom or imposes educational or curricular requirements on students. A Senate Constitutional Amendment, or SCA, is a measure that places an initiative on the statewide ballot to change the California Constitution and it is not subject to the same legislative deadlines as Assembly or Senate Bills.
  - Status: SCA 1 was referred to the Senate Education and Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committees.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- **AB 176 (Bonta) Data Collection.** AB 176 (Bonta) requires the segments of higher education to post specified data on Asian and Pacific Islander (API) subgroups by July 2016 and to expand the number of subgroups after the 2020 Census. The bill also imposes specified data collection requirements on the Department of Managed Health Care.

- Position: Support
- Status: AB 176 (Bonta) was vetoed by the Governor.
- Included in the Governor’s veto message:  
*“CSU, community colleges, and UC already provide many ways in which to self-identify, including choosing among several ethnic identities. In the case of CSU, there are 50 choices for API applicants alone. Codifying the collection and reporting of at least 12 API groups several years into the future appears unnecessary, or at least premature.”*
- **AB 653 (Levine) Community College Contracting Practices.** AB 653 (Levine) authorizes community college districts to share contracts with University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) by adding clarifying language to statute. This will provide for more efficient contracting practices and has the potential for cost savings for all three segments.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: AB 653 (Levine) was signed into law by the Governor.
- **AB 798 (Bonilla) College Textbook Affordability Act.** AB 798 (Bonilla) seeks to lower textbook expenses for students by creating incentives for campuses to use Open Educational Resources (OER). AB 798 (Bonilla) provides that the California OER Council may utilize its funding as designated in SB 1052 of 2012 to provide grants to community college and CSU campuses which, with their local academic senates, develop and submit plans to increase the use of OER. Campuses that reach benchmarks will be eligible for a bonus grant. The program would be administered by the California OER Council, composed of representatives of academic senates from all three segments.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: AB 798 (Bonilla) was signed into law by the Governor.
- **AB 963 (Bonilla) Teachers' Retirement Law.** AB 963 (Bonilla) revises the definition of creditable service for purposes of the Defined Benefit Program and the Cash Balance Benefit Program.
  - Status: AB 963 (Bonilla) was signed into law by the Governor.

## STUDENT SERVICES

- **AB 801 (Bloom) Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act.** AB 801 (Bloom) establishes priority enrollment for homeless students and makes them eligible for a Board of Governors fee waiver. A homeless student must be verified as being without a residence in the last six years. The bill also establishes a liaison for homeless students that can be a current employee, rather than requiring colleges to hire a new staff person. AB 801 (Bloom) passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee with amendments to remove ongoing cost pressure.
  - Status: AB 801 (Bloom) was placed in the Senate’s inactive file.
- **AB 1016 (Santiago) Public Postsecondary Education: Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act.** AB 1016 (Santiago) would require the Chancellor’s Office to report to the Legislature on the status of each community college’s compliance with statutory requirements related to creating Associate Degrees for Transfer.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: AB 1016 (Santiago) was signed into law by the Governor.
- **AB 1366 (Lopez) Public Postsecondary Education: Dream Resource Centers.** AB 1366 (Lopez) authorizes the governing boards of community college districts to designate a Dream Resource Liaison on each campus to assist AB 540 students with information about financial aid and academic opportunities. AB 1366 (Lopez) passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee with amendments to remove the mandate.
  - Status: AB 1366 (Lopez) was placed in the Senate’s inactive file.

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

- **AB 25 (Gipson) Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program: Renewal.** AB 25 (Gipson) requires the Student Aid Commission to establish an appeal process for an otherwise qualified institution that fails to satisfy the 3-year cohort default rate and graduation rate requirements under the Cal Grant program.
  - Status: AB 25 (Gipson) was signed into law by the Governor.
  
- **AB 82 (Garcia) US Selective Service: Financial Aid Ineligibility.** Similar to last year's AB 2201 (Chávez), AB 82 (Garcia) establishes a program through the Department of Motor Vehicles to register males between 18 and 26 years old for Selective Service when they submit an application for an original or a renewal of a driver's license. The bill's statutes would only be in effect if the Selective Service System provided funding for the project. AB 82 (Garcia) passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee with amendments requiring the registrant to "opt-in" instead of asking to "opt-out." The amendments to AB 82 (Garcia) were significant and prompted the sponsor to ask the Governor to veto the bill if it reached his desk.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: AB 82 (Garcia) was vetoed by the Governor.
  
- **AB 449 (Irwin) Income Taxation: Savings Plans: Qualified ABLE Program.** AB 449 (Irwin) partially conforms state personal income tax law to the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014. ABLE programs help students with disabilities and their families save money by significantly expanding the definition of qualified education expenses, thus ensuring that ABLE account earnings and withdrawals for qualified expenses are not included in a student's income for purposes of state personal income tax reporting each year. AB 449 (Irwin) implements the state ABLE Act program, and directs the State Treasurer to administer ABLE accounts on behalf of qualified Californians. AB 449 (Irwin) contains provisions that were removed from the final version of SB 324 (Pavely) to prevent conflicts. The final versions of these two complementary measures provide California with a comprehensive statute that conforms to the federal ABLE Act. AB 449 (Irwin) is contingent upon the enactment of SB 324 (Pavely), meaning both bills must become law to be in effect.
  - Status: AB 449 (Irwin) was signed into law by the Governor.
  
- **AB 573 (Medina) Student Financial Aid: Corinthian Colleges, Inc. (CCI) Closures. AB 573 (Medina) Student Financial Aid: Corinthian Colleges, Inc. (CCI) Closures.** AB 573 (Medina) provides financial and other educational assistance to students affected by the April 27, 2015 closure of CCI campuses in California, including Heald, Everest, and WyoTech campuses. The bill restores up to two years of Cal Grant and National Guard Education Assistance awards for Heald College students who received awards in the 2013-14 or 2014-15 academic years and withdrew from their college programs between July 1, 2014, and April 27, 2015.
  - Position: Neutral
  - Status: AB 573 (Medina) was vetoed by the Governor.
  - Included in the Governor's veto message:
    - *"While the bill's provisions to extend Cal Grant eligibility for Heald students are well-intentioned, I am not comfortable creating new General Fund costs outside of the budget process, particularly given the Cal Grant augmentations already included in this year's budget."*
  
- **AB 721 (Medina) Student Financial Aid: Private Student Loans.** AB 721 (Medina) requires community colleges to comply with federal student loan disclosure requirements, including notifying students if a college does not participate in the federal loan program, advising students that they may be eligible for federal loans at other community colleges, and providing students

with information regarding the California Student Aid Commission's website and the Federal Student Aid web link on the U.S. Department of Education's website.

- Position: Neutral
- Status: AB 721 (Medina) was signed into law by the Governor.
  
- **AB 1091 (E. Garcia) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program.** AB 1091 (E. Garcia) authorizes the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to require public schools and school districts to electronically submit verification of high school graduation. AB 1091 (E. Garcia) would also require CSAC to develop a standardized form for electronic submission of GPA information. AB 1091 (E. Garcia) builds upon previous legislation, AB 2160 (Ting, 2014), that required all public schools and districts to electronically submit student GPA information to CSAC. If AB 1091 (E. Garcia) becomes law, the electronic verification of high school graduation would be added to the same standardized form used for GPA information. Recent research confirms that these practices are highly effective and would allow many more students to complete their financial aid applications in a timely manner.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: AB 1091 (E. Garcia) was signed into law by the Governor.
  
- **SB 150 (Nguyen) Personal Income Tax: Exclusion: Student Loan Debt.** SB 150 (Nguyen) amends the state personal income tax code to exclude from gross income in the amount of student loans that are forgiven for eligible students who were enrolled at Corinthian schools on or after January 1, 2015.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: SB 150 (Nguyen) was signed into law by the Governor.
  
- **SB 324 (Pavley) Income Taxation: Savings Plans: ABLÉ Program.** SB 324 (Pavley) partially conforms state personal income tax law to the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014. ABLE programs help students with disabilities and their families save money as a result of an expanded definition of qualified education expenses, thus ensuring that ABLE account earnings and withdrawals for qualified expenses are not included in a student's income for purposes of state personal income tax reporting each year. This bill creates the ABLE Act Board, specifies the composition of Board membership, and expands the definition of a qualified education expense. The expanded definition includes: the full cost of housing and food; transportation; employment training and support; computers, assistive technology and personal support services; health prevention and wellness; financial management and administrative services; legal fees; oversight and monitoring; and funeral and burial services. Some of the provisions in SB 324 (Pavley) were removed to prevent conflicts with AB 449 (Irwin). The final versions of these two complementary measures provide California with a comprehensive statute that conforms to the federal ABLE Act. SB 324 (Pavley) is contingent upon the enactment of AB 449 (Irwin), meaning both bills must become law to be in effect.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: SB 324 (Pavley) was signed into law by the Governor.

## **VETERANS**

- **AB 1361 (Burke) Student Financial Aid Cal Grant Program: Veterans.** AB 1361 (Burke) eliminates the age limit of 28 years old for veterans applying for the California Community College Transfer Cal Grant Entitlement Program. It is sponsored by the California Student Aid Commission.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: AB 1361 (Burke) was vetoed by the Governor.
  - Included in the Governor's veto message:  
*"I am not comfortable creating new General Fund costs outside of the budget process, particularly given the Cal Grant augmentations already included in this year's budget."*



- **AB 1401 (Baker) Veterans Student Financial Aid.** AB 1401 (Baker) reinstates expired provisions of state law that requires financial aid information, including the Board of Governors (BOG) fee waiver and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be made available to each member of the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, and the Naval Militia who do not have a baccalaureate degree.
  - Position: Support
  - Status: AB 1401 (Baker) was signed into law by the Governor.
  
- **SB 81 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) Postsecondary Education: Budget Trailer Bill.** During this legislative session, two bills by Assembly Member Chávez, **AB 13** and **AB 27**, were introduced to align state law with the federal law known as the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACA). VACA requires the state's public postsecondary educational institutions to exempt qualifying nonresident veterans and covered individuals from paying nonresident tuition and fees. Because the University of California (UC) has autonomy through the state Constitution and authority to set its fees, UC was able to address compliance with VACA by amending their Educational Policy through the UC Board of Regents. The California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU) do not have the same authority to set fees. Therefore, while the CCC Board of Governors supported prior legislation to provide instate tuition to veterans and continued that precedent by supporting AB 13 and AB 27, without a change in state law VACA would have prevented the US Veterans Administration from providing GI Bill education benefits to veterans attending CCC and CSU.

While AB 13 and AB 27 were going through the legislative process, SB 81 was introduced as a budget trailer bill. SB 81 included an addition to Education Code to address the issue of aligning state law with VACA to authorize and require districts to charge instate tuition to individuals covered by VACA. SB 81 also allows the colleges to count students affected by VACA as California residents for the purposes of state funding. SB 81 was signed by the Governor as part of the budget bill package on June 24, 2015 and was effective immediately upon signature. However, as stated in VACA, SB 81 applies for terms beginning on or after July 1, 2015. Assembly Member Chavez may now use AB 13 and AB 27 for other purposes.

- Position: Support
- Status: SB 81 was signed into law by the Governor.

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