





# The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: May 16, 2016

SUBJECT: Stand-Alone Credit Course Approval		Item Number: 3.1	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	X
Approved for Consideration:	 Erik Skinner, Acting Chancellor	Action	
		Information	

**ISSUE:** This item is a first reading of a proposed regulatory change to reinstate the California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 55100 *Course Approval*. The purpose of the reinstatement of this regulation is to authorize community college districts to locally approve credit courses that offer nondegree applicable credit courses and degree applicable credit courses that are not part of an approved educational program (commonly known as “stand-alone” courses) without separate approval by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

**BACKGROUND:** Assembly Bill 1943 (1995-96 Reg. Sess.) signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 30, 2006, (AB 1943) amended California Education Code (CEC), sections 70901 and 70902. AB 1943 allowed California community college districts to offer credit courses that are not part of an approved educational program without prior approval by the Board of Governors. These courses are commonly referred to as “stand-alone credit courses.” The provision was effective Fall 2007 through December 31, 2012, and also required the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2012. In 2011, CEC sections 70901 and 70902 were amended by AB 1029, which extended the delegated authority for a period of one year.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for a first reading. The Board of Governors must hold a public hearing for receipt of comments, both written and oral, which are offered concerning the proposed action. It is anticipated that the regulations will be presented to the Board of Governors for adoption at its July 18, 2016 meeting.

**ANALYSIS:** The reinstatement of title 5, section 55100 *Course Approval* provides authority to community college districts to approve credit courses, commonly known as “stand-alone” courses. This type of course is not attached to an education program, thus stand-alone. This allows the colleges an opportunity to develop credit courses that respond to emerging community needs in a timely manner. Additionally, this authority allows colleges to be responsive in providing credit course opportunities to better serve community college students and communities including, those workforce needs as stated in the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy.

**ATTACHMENT:** Revised California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 55100 *Course Approval*