

An act to add Article 2.6 (commencing with Section 66010.96) to Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

SECURED
COPY

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Article 2.6 (commencing with Section 66010.96) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 2.6. Awards for Innovation in Higher Education Program

66010.96. (a) This article shall be known, and may be cited, as the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education Program.

(b) The Awards for Innovation in Higher Education Program is hereby established to award funds appropriated for the program.

(c) The Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education shall award funds appropriated for the program.

(d) The committee shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Director of Finance, or his or her designee, who shall serve as the chairperson of the committee.

(2) Four members appointed by the Governor.

(3) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(4) One member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

(e) The Department of Finance shall serve as staff to the committee.

(f) Members of the committee shall serve without compensation, but the committee may reimburse members for necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

(g) Actions taken to implement the provisions of this section by the Department of Finance, or the committee, shall not be subject to provisions of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(h) Any contract executed to implement the provisions of this section shall not be subject to the provisions of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 10100) of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code, or Article 6 (commencing with Section 999) of Chapter 6 of Division 4 of the Military and Veterans Code.

(i) For purposes of Section 1090 of the Government Code, members of the committee shall not be deemed to be interested in any contract, including any award of funds by the committee, pursuant to this section.

(j) The committee shall develop administrative guidelines and other requirements for purposes of administering the program.

66010.97. (a) The Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education shall use funds appropriated in Item 6910-102-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2016 to make awards pursuant to this section.

(b) Moneys may be awarded for any of the following categories of innovation:

(1) Implementation of a program that allows students to earn high school diplomas and industry-recognized credentials simultaneously or to earn high school diplomas and associate degrees for transfer simultaneously.

(2) Implementation of a program that allows students to earn industry-recognized credentials and associate degrees for transfer simultaneously.

(3) Implementation of a program that allows students to earn industry-recognized credentials through credit for skill competencies, such as prior learning and prior experiences, including military training.

(4) The offering of a set of fully online courses for basic skills in both English and mathematics that are available to California resident students, including those students who do not reside within the boundaries of the college or district.

(5) The offering of a set of fully online courses that comply with all of the following requirements:

(A) The courses are sufficient for students to satisfy the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum.

(B) The courses are included in the Course Identification Numbering System.

(C) The courses are available to California resident students, including those students who do not reside within the boundaries of the college or district.

(6) The predominant use of open educational resources in the courses offered or the availability of multiple zero-textbook-cost degrees.

(c) For purposes of this section, a “fully online course” means a course that does not require students to attend in person, provided that a fully online course may make available to students optional in-person components as part of the curriculum.

(d) The commission shall make an award only to a community college, but the award may be for implementing a category of innovation listed in subdivision (b) that encourages or requires a partnership between the community college and other entities.

(e) It is the intent of the Legislature that the committee make awards in compliance with all of the following:

- (1) The awards are at least four million dollars (\$4,000,000) each.
- (2) At least one award is made for each of the categories of innovation listed in subdivision (b).
- (3) Awards are based on the quality of the innovation, the likelihood the innovation can be achieved, the presence of support by relevant stakeholders, the number of students who would benefit from the innovation, the length of time it would take for the innovation to be implemented, and the likelihood the innovation can be sustained.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.

as introduced, _____.

General Subject: Awards for Innovation in Higher Education Program.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes them to operate campuses and provide instruction to students.

This bill would establish the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education Program, under the administration of the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education, composed of specified members, to award funds appropriated for the program in the Budget Act of 2016 to community colleges for implementing specified programs, offering fully online courses that meet certain criteria, expanding the use of open educational resources in the courses offered, or expanding the availability of zero-textbook-cost degrees.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.