

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: August 15, 2011
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 292
AUTHOR: A. Padilla

BILL SUMMARY: Community Colleges: Transfers

This bill would require California community colleges (CCCs) to accept credits earned by students at other CCCs that would apply toward the associate degree for transfer under the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (STAR).

FISCAL SUMMARY

The bill could create a reimbursable state-mandate costing \$1.2 million to \$2.4 million Proposition 98 General Fund for CCCs to approve and accept credits from other CCCs. The cost is based on the California Community College Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office) estimate of an hourly cost of \$60 per review for faculty to review and process requests for one or two courses from 20,000 students. However, the ultimate cost could be greater since the mandate process does not encourage CCCs to perform mandated activities in an efficient or cost effective manner.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance opposes the bill for the following reasons:

- The bill could generate reimbursable state-mandated costs in the millions of dollars Proposition 98 General Fund for CCCs to review and apply credits taken at other CCCs. While streamlining the transfer process and alleviating the need for duplicative coursework has merit, it would not be prudent fiscal policy to create a new mandate and impose additional workload on the CCCs during a time of severe fiscal uncertainty and reduced funding for the CCCs.
The bill is unnecessary because faculty from the CCCs and the California State Universities (CSUs) are currently collaborating on the Transfer Model Curriculum, which would provide a framework for accepting like-courses between and within the segments. Additionally, the Course Identification Number System (C-ID) is available to the CCCs, of which 62 CCCs are participating and additional colleges are working towards having their courses aligned to the C-ID. In the event that this legislation was enacted, the segments would likely pursue these existing or similar efforts to provide course reciprocity.

Chapter 428, Statutes of 2010 (SB 1440), established the STAR Act that requires CCC districts to grant an associate degree that deems the student eligible for transfer to a CSU subject to specified requirements. The CSUs are required to guarantee admission with junior status to CCC students meeting the requirements of SB 1440. The SB 1440 also encourages, but does not require, CCCs to facilitate the acceptance of credits earned at other CCCs toward the STAR transfer degree.

One of the goals of SB 1440 is to streamline the process and create efficiencies that allow students to successfully complete a baccalaureate degree without undue delay or unnecessary units. According to the author's office, the reciprocity in the acceptance of credits between CCCs has become a point of contention

Analyst/Principal (0331) E. Hanson Date Program Budget Manager Nick Schweizer Date

Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved Position Disapproved

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

A. Padilla

August 15, 2011

SB 292

and that it is necessary to mandate the CCCs to provide reciprocity in the acceptance of credits in order to meet the objectives of the SB 1440.

The C-ID is a program involving faculty from the CCCs, CSUs, UC, and independent colleges and universities that assigns supranumbers to lower division transfer courses to simplify the articulation process and student movement between colleges by developing a process that identifies course commonalities while respecting local variations in courses that commonly transfer. Currently, there are 500 courses assigned C-ID numbers for 11 disciplines. This project is funded by the Chancellor's Office through the Transfer Education and Articulation categorical program and is a collaborative effort of the Academic Senate of the CCC, the Academic Senate of the CSU, the Academic Senate of the UC, and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

The Budget Act of 2008 provided approximately \$1.4 million Proposition 98 General Fund for the Transfer and Articulation program; however, due to the state's fiscal challenges, the Budget Act of 2009 reduced program funding to \$698,000. Moreover, the Budget Act of 2009 identified the Transfer and Articulation as being subject to the categorical flexibility, which allows districts to shift funding to other needs and priorities if specified conditions are met. The Budget Act of 2011 maintains the \$698,000 funding level and extends the categorical flexibility to 2014-15.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)								
	CO	PROP								
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014		
6870/Comm College	LA	Yes	C	\$600 - 1,200	C	\$1,200 - 2,400	C	\$1,200 - 2,400		0001