

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: July 13, 2011
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: Long Beach Unified School District and Long Beach City College

BILL NUMBER: SB 650
AUTHOR: A. Lowenthal
RELATED BILLS: AB 160 (Portantino)

BILL SUMMARY: College Promise Partnership Act

This bill would create the College Promise Partnership Act that would authorize the Long Beach Community College District (LBCCD) and the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) to enter into a partnership that would provide concurrent enrollment opportunities for participating students.

The bill would allow the LBCCD to earn additional units of full-time equivalent students (FTES) for the purposes of receiving apportionment funding; however, the LBCCD would be required to implement the partnership in a manner that does not result in increased apportionment funding above its annual funded FTES enrollment cap.

The bill would require the LBCCD to provide an evaluation of the partnership, as specified, to the California Community College Chancellor's Office and the Legislature by December 30, 2016. The bill's provisions would become inoperative on June 30, 2017 and would be repealed on January 1, 2018.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The bill could create a Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressure in the hundreds of thousands of dollars by expanding concurrent enrollment eligibility at the LBCCD. If the bill generated 200 unfunded credit FTES, the resulting cost pressure would be \$913,000 at the current credit funding rate of \$4,565.

In the event that the LBCCD did not meet its regularly funded FTES enrollment cap, this bill would allow the LBCCD to utilize the additional concurrent enrollment FTES to maximize state funding.

COMMENTS

We support efforts to allow CCC and K-12 school districts more discretion to work together to meet the needs of their students; however, the Department of Finance opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- This bill could generate Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressure by expanding concurrent enrollment opportunities for secondary students. Given the state's current fiscal challenges, it would not be prudent fiscal policy to generate new cost pressures. Under current law, the state

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

Department Deputy Director Date

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

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can pay twice for the education of a concurrently enrolled student because K-12 students only need to attend a minimum of four hours for the school district to receive full revenue limit funding. Then, as a result of the student concurrently enrolling in a CCC, the college becomes eligible for state apportionment in the CCC system.

- Due to recent budget reductions and current budget constraints, the CCCs have reduced course offerings and are turning away traditional students that are seeking courses to improve, or gain, job skills or to advance their educational goals. Given the limited number of courses available, it would not be prudent policy to expand eligibility for concurrent enrollment students and exacerbate an already challenging situation for traditional CCC students.
- This bill is unnecessary. Existing law already allows concurrent enrollment opportunities for students that would benefit from advanced scholastic or vocational instruction.

Current law authorizes the governing board of a school district to determine which pupils would benefit from advanced scholastic or vocational training. Upon the recommendation of the school principal and with the consent of the parent, the governing board may authorize a limited number of students that would benefit from advanced instruction to attend a community college. Current law also authorizes a school principal to recommend students for CCC summer school session under specified conditions; however the principal cannot recommend more than five percent of the total number of pupils for any particular grade level, except under specified conditions. Current law also requires that concurrently enrolled students be assigned low priority enrollment to ensure traditional CCC students are not displaced.

Chapter 786 of the Statutes of 2003 (SB 338, Scott), enacted a number of reforms related to concurrent enrollment programs to help ensure a more limited scope of attendance in response to widespread abuses that had occurred during the previous five years. Later amendments allowed high school students to exceed the five percent summer enrollment cap if they are taking advanced college-level coursework, and exempted students enrolled in college-level transfer courses, vocational courses that were part of a sequence leading to a degree or certificate, and courses necessary for high school seniors to pass the California High School Exit Examination.

In 2008, the LBUSD, the LBCCD, and the California State University Long Beach (CSULB), agreed to the Long Beach College Promise that promises all LBUSD students the opportunity to receive a college education. The Promise provides students guaranteed college admission, early and continued outreach, and multiple pathway support. According to the author's office, this bill would allow the LBUSD, the LBCCD, and the CSULB to advance their partnership promise to LBUSD students.

Related Bill

AB 160 (Portantino) would make changes to current law governing concurrent enrollment of K-12 students in the CCCs. Specifically, this bill would: (1) authorize community college districts (CCDs) to enter into partnership agreements with neighboring school districts to allow qualifying secondary students to enroll in CCC advanced scholastic, career-technical or vocational education, basic skills remediation, high school exit exam preparation, English as a second language, or dropout prevention courses; (2) allow qualifying secondary students to enroll in specified CCC courses upon notifying their principal; (3) allow qualifying secondary students to enroll in up to 11 units per semester, or equivalent thereof; (4) authorize CCDs with partnership agreements to assign an enrollment priority to concurrently enrolled students; and (5) exempt CCDs with partnership agreements from existing concurrent enrollment limitations and requirements.

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

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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		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----			0001