

Introduced by Senators Alpert and Scott
(Principal coauthors: Senators Alarcon, McPherson, and
Vasconcellos)
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Daucher, Liu, and
Steinberg)

February 18, 2004

An act to add Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section 67100) to Part 40 of, and to repeal Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 99180) of Part 65 of, the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education accountability.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1331, as introduced, Alpert. Postsecondary education accountability: California Postsecondary Education Accountability Act of 2004.

(1) Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth, among other things, the missions and functions of California's public and independent segments of higher education and their respective institutions of higher education. Under existing law, there are 3 segments of the public higher education system in the state. These segments are the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. The independent segment of higher education in the state is represented by the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

Provisions of the Donahoe Higher Education Act are applicable to the University of California only to the extent that the regents act, by resolution, to make these provisions applicable.

This bill would add the California Postsecondary Accountability Act of 2004 to the Donahoe Higher Education Act. The bill would establish a statewide California Postsecondary Education Accountability (CPSEA) structure that would annually provide an assessment of the progress made by the state's system of postsecondary education in meeting the educational needs of Californians. The bill would specify the information to be collected through a statewide reporting system that the bill would establish.

The bill would require the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the Trustees of the California State University, and would request the Regents of the University of California and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities to, provide annual reports to the Legislature and the Governor, by October 1 of each year, to become part of the state accountability record.

The bill would require the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) to administer the postsecondary education accountability structure established by the bill. The bill would require CPEC to provide to the Legislature and the Governor, by October 1 of each year, a report that includes an analysis of the data collected pursuant to the bill and an assessment of the progress the state is making within each of several specified policy areas.

(2) Existing law establishes a higher education accountability program under which the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges are required to prepare a list of reports on a regular basis to the Legislature and to state agencies. Under the program, commencing on November 15, 1994, and each November 15 thereafter, the CPEC is required to submit a higher education report to the Legislature and the Governor that provides information on significant indicators of the performance of the public colleges and universities.

This bill would repeal this program.

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



The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section
2 67100) is added to Part 40 of the Education Code, to read:

3

4 CHAPTER 12.5. THE CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
5 ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2004

6

7 67100. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
8 following:

9 (a) Since the enactment of the Master Plan for Higher
10 Education in 1960, California's system of postsecondary
11 education has provided access and high quality educational
12 opportunities that have fueled California's economic growth.

13 (b) A combination of factors now poses challenges for
14 postsecondary education and for state policymakers in achieving
15 the postsecondary education needs of Californians. Enrollment is
16 growing, the demographics of the student body are changing, costs
17 are rising, state support for postsecondary education is declining,
18 student fees are increasing, access is being restricted, employers
19 are expressing concerns about graduates' skills, and there is
20 growing public demand to ensure that the state is making proper
21 investments in postsecondary education.

22 (c) Although the public segments of postsecondary education
23 have each developed their own institution-specific accountability
24 efforts, they do not combine to reflect statewide policy goals that
25 cut across all postsecondary education segments.

26 (d) In the absence of a statewide focus, the state has limited
27 access to meaningful data that could serve as the basis for analysis
28 on how the state is performing in key areas, and must make
29 important fiscal and policy decisions without that knowledge.

30 67100.3. It is the intent of the Legislature that a postsecondary
31 education accountability reporting structure contain all of the
32 following elements:

33 (a) Be focused and strategic in its purpose.

34 (b) Be used wisely to serve as a tool to improve educational
35 outcomes for Californians.

36 (c) Be used to support effective, data-driven policy and fiscal
37 decisions.



1 (d) Acknowledge that not everything about the whole person
2 can be measured, including the intangible learning capacities that
3 students gain from college attendance.

4 (e) Recognize that students enter the system with different
5 levels of preparation.

6 (f) Be used to identify and eliminate unnecessary and
7 redundant reports submitted to the state by the various educational
8 agencies and institutions to save resources, improve efficiency,
9 and allow institutions to focus on their efforts on meeting state
10 policy goals and their own related institutional goals.

11 67100.5. (a) The State of California shall establish a
12 statewide California Postsecondary Education Accountability
13 (CPSEA) structure that provides the basis for an annual
14 assessment of the progress made by the state's system of
15 postsecondary education in meeting the educational needs of
16 Californians.

17 (b) This CPSEA structure shall include measures of progress
18 toward four statewide public policy goals for postsecondary
19 education in the following areas:

20 (1) Educational Opportunity.

21 (2) Participation.

22 (3) Student Success.

23 (4) Public Benefits, including meaningful participation in civic
24 life and support of the state's economy.

25 (c) The CPSEA structure shall establish a statewide reporting
26 system that identifies a select number of key indicators to measure
27 progress toward these state goals. The information provided by
28 this system shall include all of the following:

29 (1) Statewide aggregate data, as described in this section.

30 (2) Regional data, reported by regions to be determined
31 pursuant to advice from the CPSEA.

32 (3) Segmental data provided by the public and independent
33 nonprofit sectors pursuant to the process described in subdivision
34 (a).

35 (4) A system-specific annual report to the Governor and the
36 Legislature.

37 (d) The data for the indicators shall be collected statewide from
38 a variety of sources, including information provided by the
39 segments and the institutions within these segments. Each
40 indicator shall provide information by race and ethnicity, gender,



1 Cal Grant recipient status, and socioeconomic status, to the extent
2 to which data is available. The indicators shall be adopted by the
3 California Postsecondary Education Commission.

4 (e) Data collection for the statewide reporting system shall be
5 implemented in two phases. Phase I of implementation shall report
6 on existing data elements identified for the system that are
7 currently collected, and shall go into effect with the annual report
8 due on October 1, 2005. Phase II of implementation shall include
9 development of new data elements not currently available.
10 Development of the new data elements in Phase II shall begin on
11 October 1, 2006, and go into effect with the annual report due on
12 October 1, 2008.

13 (f) The Board of Governors of the California Community
14 Colleges and the Trustees of the California State University are
15 required to, and the Regents of the University of California and the
16 Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities
17 are urged to, provide annual reports to the Legislature and the
18 Governor, by October 1 of each year, to become part of the state
19 accountability record. These annual reports shall provide a key
20 link between the state postsecondary education accountability
21 reporting structure and segmental accountability efforts. These
22 annual reports shall include all of the following:

23 (1) The segment's main priorities for each of the state's goal
24 areas.

25 (2) The major activities underway to address each priority.

26 (3) The performance indicators used to track progress toward
27 each goal.

28 (4) Major highlights or issues from the data that have
29 state-level significance.

30 (5) The segment's institutional goals for student learning
31 outcomes; how they assess progress toward these goals; what they
32 are learning from their assessments, including reporting on efforts
33 to increase a student's capacity to learn; how students are
34 performing in areas of core competence; and how they are using
35 their assessments to improve learning.

36 67100.7. The CPSEA structure is guided by the following set
37 of principles:

38 (a) A state-level accountability structure is designed to help
39 policymakers develop, maintain, and fund a postsecondary
40 education system that meets the state's goals, recognizes the



1 differentiated missions of each segment of postsecondary
2 education, and guides the segments toward maintaining effective
3 institutions consistent with state goals and institutional missions.

4 (b) The CPSEA structure is designed to be simple, yet
5 meaningful.

6 (c) Policymakers and governing boards are collectively
7 accountable for meeting public goals for higher education.

8 (d) The state-level reporting system is designed to contain only
9 data that helps policymakers to assess progress toward state goals
10 and to make appropriate policy and funding decisions and
11 interventions.

12 (e) The ongoing responsibility of the governing boards is to
13 monitor and be accountable for the performance of individual
14 colleges and universities for meeting statewide policy goals,
15 segmental and institutional missions and goals, and for the quality
16 of the education of its students.

17 (f) The data shall be communicated publicly in a concise
18 manner that conveys clearly the relevance of each measure to state
19 policy and fiscal choices.

20 67101. For the purposes of this chapter, the segments of
21 postsecondary education are defined as the California Community
22 Colleges, the California State University, the University of
23 California, and the Association of Independent California
24 Colleges and Universities.

25 67102. The California Postsecondary Education Commission
26 (CPEC) shall be responsible for administering the postsecondary
27 education accountability structure. In this capacity, CPEC shall
28 develop, and periodically may revise, the data elements to be
29 collected, and shall collect and interpret the data. CPEC shall
30 provide an annual report to the Legislature and the Governor by
31 October 1 of each year. The report shall include CPEC's
32 independent assessment of the process being made at the statewide
33 level for each of the policy indicators. The report may also include
34 CPEC's comments on segmental implementation and oversight of
35 the statewide accountability reporting. The report shall, at a
36 minimum, include an analysis of key indicators, as specified by
37 subdivision (b) of Section 67100.5, on a statewide, regional, and
38 segmental basis as specified by Section 67100.5.



- 1 SEC. 2. Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 99180) of
- 2 Part 65 of the Education Code is repealed.

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