

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2653

Introduced by Assembly Member Dymally

February 24, 2006

An act to add Article 3.3 (commencing with Section 33) to Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Education Code, relating to accreditation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2653, as introduced, Dymally. Accreditation: California Commission on Accreditation.

Existing law establishes the education system in this state. That system consists of public and private elementary and secondary schools and public and private postsecondary institutions. Existing law defines accreditation as a determination of compliance with a set of appropriate standards and, in the context of education, existing law acknowledges that the accreditation of schools is accomplished by regional accrediting agencies such as the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

This bill would establish the California Commission on Accreditation in state government, and charge the commission with the responsibility of reviewing and accrediting, or reviewing and declining to accredit, all elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools in this state that apply to the commission for accreditation. The bill would require that the commission consist of 5 members to be appointed as specified. The bill would authorize the commission to appoint a chief executive officer, to be known as the Director of Accreditation, who would be exempt from civil service. The bill would also authorize the commission to employ staff whose employment would be subject to the State Civil Service Act.

The bill would require that the commission be made up of at least 5 divisions, and require that each member of the commission supervise one of the divisions designated in the bill. The bill would require that the commission be subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

The bill would require that its provisions not be construed to affect the accreditation status, or the length of the term of accreditation, of any school that is accredited as of January 1, 2007. The bill would require the commission to provide appropriate notice of the date of the commencement of its review of a school as the end of that school’s period of accreditation approaches.

The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that funding shall be provided to the California Commission on Accreditation in the annual Budget Act.

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. Article 3.3 (commencing with Section 33) is
2 added to Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Education Code, to read:

3
4 Article 3.3. California Commission on Accreditation
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6 33. There is in state government a California Commission on
7 Accreditation, which shall be charged with the responsibility of
8 reviewing and accrediting, or reviewing and declining to
9 accredit, all elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools in
10 this state that apply to the commission for accreditation. The
11 commission shall conduct all the research and investigation that
12 is necessary for it to fulfill its responsibilities under this article.

13 33.3. (a) The commission shall consist of five members as
14 follows:

15 (1) One member appointed by, and serving at the pleasure of,
16 the Governor.

17 (2) One member appointed by, and serving at the pleasure of,
18 the Senate Committee on Rules.

19 (3) One member appointed by, and serving at the pleasure of,
20 the Speaker of the Assembly.

21 (4) One member appointed by, and serving at the pleasure of,
22 the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

1 (5) One member appointed by the Governor from a list of at
2 least three names provided by the Association of Independent
3 California Colleges and Universities, and serving at the pleasure
4 of the Governor.

5 (b) Each member of the commission shall supervise one of the
6 divisions listed in Section 33.5. The Department of Personnel
7 Administration shall determine the compensation of the members
8 of the commission.

9 (c) The commission shall appoint a chief executive officer,
10 who shall be known as the Director of Accreditation, and who
11 shall serve at the pleasure of the commission. Pursuant to
12 subdivision (e) of Section 4 of Article VII of the California
13 Constitution, the director shall be exempt from civil service. The
14 commission may employ the staff that it deems necessary to
15 carry out its responsibilities. The State Civil Service Act (Part 2
16 commencing with Section 18500) of Division 5 of Title 2 of the
17 Government Code) shall apply to the employment of the staff of
18 the commission.

19 33.5. The commission shall be made up of at least five
20 divisions. Five of the divisions of the commission shall
21 respectively have responsibility over the following subject matter
22 areas:

23 (a) Public and private colleges and universities offering
24 baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degrees, or a
25 combination of those types of degrees.

26 (b) Community colleges.

27 (c) Public secondary schools.

28 (d) Public elementary schools.

29 (e) Private secondary and elementary schools.

30 33.7. The commission shall be subject to the requirements of
31 the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing
32 with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title
33 2 of the Government Code).

34 34. This article shall not be construed to affect the
35 accreditation status, or the length of the term of accreditation, of
36 any school that is accredited as of January 1, 2007. The
37 commission shall provide appropriate notice of the date of the
38 commencement of its review of a school as the end of that
39 school's period of accreditation approaches.

1 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that funding shall be
2 provided to the California Commission on Accreditation in the
3 annual Budget Act.

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