

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 440

Introduced by Assembly Member Beall

(Principal coauthor: Senator Padilla)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Block, Chesbro, Coto, De Leon,
and Fong)**

February 24, 2009

An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 440, as amended, Beall. California Community Colleges: student transfer.

Existing law establishes the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state. These segments include the California State University, the campuses of which are administered by the Trustees of the California State University, the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, and the California Community Colleges, which are administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes them to provide instruction to students at community college campuses.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, authorizes the community colleges to grant associate in arts and associate in science

degrees. The act also requires the regents, the trustees, and the board of governors to have as a fundamental policy the maintenance of a healthy and expanded program to increase the number of transfer students from community colleges.

This bill would enact the College Student Success Act, which would authorize a community college district to grant an associate in arts degree in transfer studies or an equivalent program to a student meeting specified requirements.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Since the enactment of the Master Plan for Higher Education
- 4 in 1960, preparing students to transfer to a four-year university
- 5 has been a core function of the California Community Colleges.
- 6 (b) Successful progression from lower division coursework to
- 7 degree completion is a basic principle of California higher
- 8 education and is critical to the future of ~~California's~~ *the state's*
- 9 economy.
- 10 (c) Currently, the coursework necessary to transfer to a campus
- 11 of the California State University or the University of California
- 12 differs from the coursework needed to earn an associate degree.
- 13 As a result, many transfer students leave the community college
- 14 system having completed transfer requirements, but are unable to
- 15 participate in community college graduation ceremonies, do not
- 16 have a degree to show for their work, and are ineligible for some
- 17 awards and scholarships because they did not fulfill current
- 18 requirements for an associate degree.
- 19 (d) Today, one in every four jobs ~~require~~ *requires* an associate
- 20 degree or higher. In the near future, one in every three jobs will
- 21 require an associate degree or higher.
- 22 (e) The community college system allows the state to address
- 23 the serious shortage of educated workers.
- 24 (f) To meet workforce demands in a cost-effective way, a
- 25 transfer studies associate degree program provides increased
- 26 educational opportunities for Californians throughout the state

1 who might not otherwise earn a baccalaureate degree because of
2 interruptions in their education.

3 (g) In the current difficult fiscal times, increasing student success
4 will have long-term benefits for California's economy.

5 (h) A transfer studies associate degree program is a manageable
6 reform in an otherwise bleak economic climate.

7 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) is added
8 to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education
9 Code, to read:

10
11 Article 3. Transfer Studies Program
12

13 66745. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
14 College Student Success Act.

15 66746. A community college district may grant an associate
16 in arts degree in transfer studies or an associate in arts degree in
17 an equivalent program to a student meeting both of the following
18 requirements:

19 (a) Completes a minimum of 60 semester units.

20 (b) Meets the minimum requirements for transfer to a campus
21 of the California State University or the University of California.

22 66747. (a) A degree granted pursuant to this article shall
23 recognize the completion of lower division general education
24 requirements.

25 (b) A degree granted pursuant to this article does not guarantee
26 admission to any institution.