

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 23, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 7, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1455**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Hill**  
*(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Liu, Romero, and Simitian)*

February 27, 2009

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An act to add Section 78016.6 to the Education Code, relating to the San Mateo County Community College District.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1455, as amended, Hill. San Mateo County Community College District Baccalaureate Partnership Act.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law authorizes the establishment of community college districts under the administration of community college district governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at community college campuses throughout the state.

Existing law establishes the California Community College Baccalaureate Partnership Program to encourage baccalaureate degree-granting institutions to partner with community colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs entirely on participating community

college campuses and provides for up to 2 grants, not to exceed \$50,000 each, to collaboratives formed for this purpose.

This bill would establish the San Mateo *County* Community College District Baccalaureate Partnership Program to encourage baccalaureate degree-granting institutions to partner with the San Mateo County Community College District to offer baccalaureate degree programs on the district’s community college campuses.

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. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (1) Since its adoption in 1960, the Master Plan for Higher  
4 Education has served the state exceedingly well, allowing  
5 California to create the largest and most distinguished higher  
6 education system in the nation. A key component of the Master  
7 Plan for Higher Education is the differentiation of mission and  
8 function among the three systems of higher education in the state:  
9 the University of California, the California State University, and  
10 the California Community Colleges.

11 (2) Until recently, this differentiation of function has allowed  
12 California to provide universal access to postsecondary education  
13 while preserving quality.

14 (3) Due to current economic realities and a high unemployment  
15 rate in the state, tens of thousands of unemployed or  
16 underemployed Californians are entering or returning to college  
17 to improve job skills or to train for new careers.

18 (4) In the rapidly emerging “knowledge economy” of California,  
19 it is more important than ever before that California have a  
20 well-educated populace in order for the state to remain competitive  
21 nationally and internationally. Several recent studies have  
22 concluded that a college degree is now required for most of the  
23 highest paying occupations and that, in many areas of the economy,  
24 the baccalaureate degree is replacing the associate degree as the  
25 entry level credential for 21st century jobs.

26 (5) Community college students who want to transfer to public  
27 four-year institutions face a number of challenges: students are  
28 place bound and do not have the time or money to travel to

1 four-year colleges; students are accepted, but do not get the  
2 financial aid packages that make enrollment possible; each  
3 four-year college or university has different entrance requirements  
4 that limit student options for transfer if they are not accepted into  
5 their first choice university.

6 (b) Because of these factors, the State of California supports  
7 the increased use of “university centers” where the California State  
8 University and the University of California partner with the  
9 California Community Colleges to deliver baccalaureate degree  
10 programs on community college campuses.

11 SEC. 2. Section 78016.6 is added to the Education Code, to  
12 read:

13 78016.6. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as  
14 the San Mateo County Community College District Baccalaureate  
15 Partnership Act. The San Mateo *County* Community College  
16 District Baccalaureate Partnership Program is hereby established  
17 to do the following:

18 (1) To encourage baccalaureate degree-granting institutions to  
19 partner with the San Mateo County Community College District  
20 to offer baccalaureate degree programs that will offer instruction  
21 entirely on the district’s participating campuses.

22 (2) To bring opportunities to earn baccalaureate degrees to San  
23 Mateo County, especially within areas of the county with limited  
24 access to baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.

25 (b) The San Mateo County Community College District is  
26 hereby authorized to seek collaborative partnerships with the  
27 University of California and the California State University for  
28 purposes of offering baccalaureate degree programs on campuses  
29 of the San Mateo County Community College District.

30 (c) *This section does not exempt any partnership program that*  
31 *may be proposed pursuant to this section from review by the*  
32 *California Postsecondary Education Commission pursuant to*  
33 *Section 66902 or any other applicable law.*