

Introduced by Senator Liu

February 18, 2010

An act relating to community college funding.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1143, as introduced, Liu. Community college funding.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to establish a framework for allocating state funds to community colleges in a manner that provides incentives for community colleges to assist students in completing coursework in which they enroll and coursework that is required to earn a certificate or degree. The bill would also express legislative findings and declarations relating to the rate of degree completion among community college students in this state.

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) The low rate of degree completion among community college
- 4 students is threatening California's economic future.
- 5 (b) In order to reach the education levels of the most competitive
- 6 economies, the number of students earning college degrees in
- 7 California each year must increase by more than 50 percent.

1 (c) Over 70 percent of public undergraduate enrollment in
2 California is in the community colleges.

3 (d) Only 24 percent of degree-seeking students complete a
4 certificate or associate degree or transfer to a four-year college or
5 university within six years.

6 (e) Under current law, community colleges receive most of their
7 annual funds based on student enrollment in the third week of each
8 semester.

9 (f) This method of allocating funds creates an incentive for
10 community colleges to enroll students, but no fiscal incentive for
11 those colleges to help students complete their courses and earn
12 degrees. Currently, only about 60 percent of community college
13 courses are successfully completed.

14 (g) Many of today's community college students require
15 extensive academic and student support services to remain enrolled
16 and succeed. Community colleges lack the resources and the
17 incentives to invest in this level of student support.

18 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
19 to establish a framework for allocating state funds to community
20 colleges in a manner that provides incentives for community
21 colleges to assist students in completing coursework in which they
22 enroll and coursework that is required to earn a certificate or
23 degree.