

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 2, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 21, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 1, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 5, 2010

SENATE BILL

No. 1143

**Introduced by Senator Liu
(Coauthor: Senator Alquist)**

February 18, 2010

An act to ~~add Section 84502 to the Education Code~~, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1143, as amended, Liu. Community colleges: student success and completion.

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 require the board to adopt a plan for promoting and improving student success within the California Community Colleges and to establish a taskforce to examine specified best practices and models for accomplishing student success. The bill would require the taskforce to develop and present specified recommendations to the board for incorporation into the plan to improve student success and completion within the California Community Colleges. The bill would require the board, prior to implementation of the plan, to report the contents of the plan, and the recommendations of the taskforce, to specified legislative committees by ~~June~~ *March* 1, 2012.

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. 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.
- 8 (c) Over 70 percent of public undergraduate enrollment in
- 9 California is in the community colleges.
- 10 (d) Only 24 percent of degree-seeking students complete a
- 11 certificate or associate degree or transfer to a four-year college or
- 12 university within six years.
- 13 (e) Under current law, community colleges receive most of their
- 14 annual funds based on student enrollment in the third week of each
- 15 semester.
- 16 (f) This method of allocating funds creates an incentive for
- 17 community colleges to enroll students, but no fiscal incentive for
- 18 those colleges to help students complete their courses and earn
- 19 degrees. Currently, only about 60 percent of community college
- 20 courses are successfully completed.
- 21 (g) Many of today’s community college students require
- 22 extensive academic and student support services to remain enrolled
- 23 and succeed. Community colleges lack the resources and the
- 24 incentives to invest in this level of student support.
- 25 SEC. 2. (a) The Board of Governors of the California
- 26 Community Colleges shall adopt a plan for promoting and
- 27 improving student success within the California Community
- 28 Colleges and shall establish a taskforce to examine best practices
- 29 within the community colleges and effective models throughout
- 30 the nation for accomplishing student success. The members of the
- 31 taskforce shall include a broad representation of stakeholders,
- 32 including, but not limited to, faculty.
- 33 (b) The taskforce shall develop and present recommendations
- 34 to the board for incorporation into the plan to improve student
- 35 success and completion within the California Community Colleges.

1 These recommendations shall focus on, but not be limited to, all
2 of the following considerations:

3 (1) Multiple measures and effective programs for assessing
4 student success and completion.

5 (2) Statutory and regulatory barriers to student success and
6 completion.

7 (3) Best practices for promoting student success and completion,
8 including, but not limited to, the acquisition of basic skills.

9 (4) Alternative funding options for providing necessary services
10 to students and promoting best practices for student success and
11 completion.

12 (5) Alternative funding options instituted in other states for
13 improving student success and completion.

14 (6) The effective use of technology by community colleges and
15 districts to promote, evaluate, and improve student success and
16 completion.

17 (c) Prior to presenting recommendations pursuant to subdivision
18 (b), the taskforce and the board shall facilitate discussions with
19 key community college stakeholders and other appropriate parties
20 to provide input on the findings and recommendations of the
21 taskforce.

22 (d) Prior to implementing the plan adopted pursuant to
23 subdivision (a), the board shall report the contents of the plan, and
24 the recommendations of the taskforce, to the Senate Committee
25 on Education and the Assembly Committee on Higher Education
26 at a joint hearing that shall be convened on or before ~~June~~ *March*
27 1, 2012.