

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 661

Introduced by Assembly Member Block

February 16, 2011

An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 78040) to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 661, as introduced, Block. Public postsecondary education: San Diego Community College District: baccalaureate degree pilot program.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts, administered by governing boards, throughout the state, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction to students at the community college campuses maintained by the districts.

Existing law requires community colleges to offer instruction through, but not beyond, the 2nd year of college and authorizes community colleges to grant associate in arts and science degrees.

This bill would authorize the San Diego Community College District to establish baccalaureate degree pilot programs. This bill would require a baccalaureate degree pilot program to expire 8 years after the establishment of the program. If the San Diego Community College District establishes a baccalaureate program, this bill would require the district to meet specified requirements, including, but not limited to, offering baccalaureate degrees in a limited number of fields of study, and submitting a report to the Legislature within one year prior to the

expiration of the baccalaureate degree pilot program that would evaluate specified factors.

This bill would also require, if the San Diego Community College District establishes a baccalaureate program, the governing board of the district to perform certain functions and would authorize the governing board to charge baccalaureate degree-seeking students a fee for enrollment in specified courses, which would be required to be expended for the purpose of providing a pilot program. This bill would authorize the governing board of the district to enter into agreements with local businesses and agencies to provide educational services to students participating in a baccalaureate degree pilot program.

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) For nearly 50 years, California's higher education system
4 has been the envy of the world. The University of California and
5 the California State University campuses have produced
6 groundbreaking research and millions of professionals. The
7 California Community Colleges are an often overlooked, yet
8 essential, part of this system.

9 (b) California needs to produce one million more baccalaureate
10 degrees than the state currently does to remain economically
11 competitive in the coming decades.

12 (c) It is time to change community colleges in a way that will
13 address job shortages in California's most vital employment areas
14 that require baccalaureate degrees. Community colleges can help
15 fill the gaps in the system by granting baccalaureate degrees for a
16 limited number of specific areas in order to meet a growing demand
17 for workforce need.

18 (d) These baccalaureate programs will be limited and will not
19 detract from the community colleges' mission to advance
20 California's economic growth and global competitiveness through
21 education, training, and services that contribute to continuous
22 workforce improvement, nor will the programs unnecessarily
23 duplicate similar programs offered by nearby schools.

1 (e) Community colleges can provide a quality baccalaureate
2 education with lower costs to their students than a traditional
3 four-year university, enabling lower income and part-time local
4 students to earn the baccalaureate degree needed for new job
5 opportunities and promotion.

6 (f) Seventeen other states, from Florida to Hawaii, already allow
7 their community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. California
8 is one of the most innovative states in the nation, and the California
9 Community Colleges will use that same innovative spirit to produce
10 more health, biotechnology, and other needed professionals.

11 (g) The purpose of the baccalaureate degree pilot program is to
12 promote economic development by preparing people for
13 occupations that are in demand and require a baccalaureate degree.

14 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 78040) is added
15 to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education
16 Code, to read:

17
18 Article 3. Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program
19

20 78040. For the purposes of this article, “district” means the
21 San Diego Community College District. The district may establish
22 baccalaureate degree pilot programs pursuant to Section 78041.

23 78041. Notwithstanding Section 66010.4, the San Diego
24 Community College District may establish baccalaureate degree
25 pilot programs that meet all of the eligibility requirements set forth
26 in Section 78042. A pilot program established pursuant to this
27 section shall expire eight years after the establishment of the
28 program. For purposes of this section, a pilot program is established
29 when the first class of students begins the program.

30 78042. (a) The district shall seek accreditation as a
31 baccalaureate degree granting college.

32 (b) The district shall maintain the primary mission of the
33 California Community Colleges specified in paragraph (3) of
34 subdivision (a) of Section 66010.4. The district, as part of the
35 baccalaureate degree pilot program, shall have the additional
36 mission to provide high-quality undergraduate education at an
37 affordable price for students and the state.

38 (c) The district shall offer baccalaureate degrees in a limited
39 number of fields of study subject to the following requirements,
40 as determined by the governing board of the district:

1 (1) The district shall identify and document unmet workforce
2 needs in the subject areas of the baccalaureate degrees to be offered
3 and offer baccalaureate degrees in those subject areas possessing
4 unmet workforce needs in the local community.

5 (2) The baccalaureate degree pilot program shall not
6 unnecessarily duplicate similar programs offered by nearby public
7 postsecondary educational institutions.

8 (3) The district shall have the expertise, resources, and student
9 interest to offer a quality baccalaureate degree in the chosen field
10 of study.

11 (d) The district shall maintain separate records for students who
12 are enrolled in courses classified in the upper division and lower
13 division of a baccalaureate program. A student shall be reported
14 as a community college student for enrollment in a lower division
15 course and as a baccalaureate degree program student for
16 enrollment in an upper division course.

17 (e) The governing board of the district shall do all of the
18 following:

19 (1) Determine the appropriate governance system for the
20 baccalaureate degree pilot program.

21 (2) Make decisions regarding the baccalaureate degree pilot
22 program's curriculum, faculty, and facilities.

23 (3) Establish the level of matriculation, tuition, and other
24 appropriate costs for students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree
25 program.

26 (f) (1) The governing board of the district may charge
27 baccalaureate degree-seeking students a fee, of an amount to be
28 determined by the governing board, that covers the additional costs
29 imposed by providing a baccalaureate degree pilot program, for
30 enrollment in courses that are not transfer core curriculum courses,
31 as defined in Section 66720.

32 (2) All fees collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be
33 deposited in the designated fund of the district in accordance with
34 the California Community Colleges Budget and Accounting
35 Manual, and shall be expended for the purpose of providing a
36 baccalaureate degree pilot program.

37 (g) The governing board of the district may enter into
38 agreements with local businesses and agencies to provide
39 educational services to students participating in the baccalaureate
40 degree pilot program.

1 (h) The district shall submit a report to the Legislature within
2 one year prior to the expiration of the baccalaureate degree pilot
3 program pursuant to Section 78041. The report shall examine the
4 success of the baccalaureate degree pilot program by evaluating
5 all of the following factors:

6 (1) The percentage of students who complete a baccalaureate
7 degree, calculated by dividing the number of students who graduate
8 from the baccalaureate degree pilot program by the number of
9 students who enrolled in the program.

10 (2) The extent to which the baccalaureate degree pilot program
11 is self-supporting, such that the student fees charged pursuant to
12 subdivision (f) cover the costs of the program.

13 (3) Whether there is a problem with finding and paying
14 instructors for the baccalaureate degree pilot program.

15 (4) Whether there was a decline in enrollment in the California
16 State University and the University of California as a result of the
17 baccalaureate degree pilot program.

18 (5) The number of students who received jobs in the area in the
19 field of study of their baccalaureate degree.

20 (6) The amount of student fees charged pursuant to subdivision
21 (f) compared to the amount of student fees charged for courses at
22 the California State University and the University of California.