

Introduced by Senator BlockFebruary 20, 2013

An act to add and repeal Section 78016.7 of the Education Code, relating to the California Community Colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 397, as introduced, Block. The California Community Colleges: veterans education 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.

This bill would require the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to establish a voluntary pilot program, until January 1, 2018, to identify, explore, and develop best practices for statewide policy on credit for experiential learning for veterans for career technical education course credit, certificates, and associate degrees. The bill would require the chancellor to consider specified information to select no more than 3 to 5 applicant campuses to participate in the pilot program. The bill would require participating community college districts to report specified information to the Office of the Chancellor, which would be required to provide that information to the Legislative Analyst's Office by July 1, 2017. The bill would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to use this information to provide a report to the Legislature, by December 1, 2017, that assesses

the pilot program’s effect on student veterans’ success in reaching their educational goals, as specified.

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. Section 78016.7 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:
3 78016.7. (a) The Office of the Chancellor of the California
4 Community Colleges shall establish a voluntary pilot program to
5 identify, explore, and develop best practices for a statewide policy
6 on awarding credit for experiential learning for veterans for career
7 technical education course credit, certificates, and associate
8 degrees.
9 (b) The governing board of a community college district may
10 apply for a campus within its district to be selected to participate
11 in the pilot program, and the chancellor shall select no more than
12 three to five of those campuses to participate in the pilot program.
13 In selecting campuses for the pilot program, the chancellor shall
14 consider all of the following:
15 (1) The geographic, socioeconomic, and demographic diversity
16 of students attending the campus.
17 (2) The percentage of veterans on the campus and the campus’
18 existing veteran services and programs.
19 (3) The community college district’s program and planning
20 capacity.
21 (4) The potential for support from funding partners in industry,
22 the military, labor, or other private funding sources to reduce the
23 cost of attendance for students participating in the pilot program.
24 (5) The community college district’s plan to recognize federal
25 training and education and to identify innovative options for
26 expediting the attainment of degree and certificate goals by
27 veterans.
28 (c) The pilot program shall use resources and strategies, which
29 include, but are not limited to, the American Council on
30 Education’s guidelines and recommendations, partnerships between
31 the community college district and branches of the Armed Forces
32 of the United States that facilitate the transition of veterans into
33 workforce partnership jobs, course offerings that maximize the

1 awarding of credit to complete academic requirements, and
2 stackable credential programs, to determine the value of a veteran’s
3 prior professional military training, education, and experience.

4 (d) Career technical education course credit and certificates for
5 the pilot program may include credit earned as a result of prior
6 military service.

7 (e) For purposes of the pilot program, the governing board of
8 a community college district may approve credit courses that are
9 not part of an approved educational program for a campus that
10 participates in the pilot program, in accordance with Section 70901,
11 for the duration of the pilot program.

12 (f) Community college districts participating in the pilot program
13 shall report all of the following information to the Office of the
14 Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, which shall
15 provide this information to the Legislative Analyst’s Office on or
16 before July 1, 2017:

17 (1) The geographic, socioeconomic, and demographic diversity
18 of students participating in the pilot program.

19 (2) Summary statistics on enrollment, financing sources,
20 completion rates, and credit granted for prior learning experience
21 for the pilot program.

22 (g) (1) On or before December 1, 2017, the Legislative
23 Analyst’s Office shall provide a report to the Legislature that
24 assesses the pilot program’s effect on student veterans’ success in
25 reaching their educational goals using information provided
26 pursuant to subdivision (f). In preparing this report, the Legislative
27 Analyst’s Office may draw upon campus reports; campus visits;
28 interviews with faculty, students, and administrators; and other
29 sources the Legislative Analyst’s Office deems relevant. The report
30 shall include all of the following:

31 (A) An identification of best practices that emerge from the
32 pilot program that the Legislature may want to consider for
33 statewide policy regarding credit for experiential learning for
34 veterans.

35 (B) The geographic, socioeconomic, and demographic diversity
36 of students participating in the pilot program.

37 (C) Summary statistics on enrollment, financing sources,
38 completion rates, and credit granted for prior learning experience
39 for the pilot program.

1 (D) An assessment of the pilot program’s effect on student
2 veterans’ success in reaching their educational goals.

3 (E) Recommendations regarding the extension, expansion, or
4 modification of the pilot program.

5 (2) A report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be
6 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
7 Code.

8 (h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2018,
9 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
10 is enacted before January 1, 2018, deletes or extends that date.