

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 770

Introduced by Assembly Member Irwin

February 25, 2015

An act relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 770, as introduced, Irwin. Community colleges: basic skills and innovation strategies.

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 authorizes the establishment of community college districts under the administration of community college governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at community college campuses throughout the state.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to provide more opportunities for campuses of the California Community Colleges to participate in basic skills innovation strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness in improving student success and in increasing the number of underprepared students who complete college-level English and mathematics courses.

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:

1 (a) Over 70 percent of students enrolling, for the first time, in
2 courses offered by campuses of the California Community Colleges
3 are classified as underprepared for college-level work and in need
4 of remediation.

5 (b) National research has found that, regardless of incoming
6 preparation levels, the more semesters of remediation students are
7 required to take, the less likely those students are to complete
8 college-level English and mathematics courses, which are gateway
9 courses to most postsecondary degree and credential programs,
10 and for transfer to four-year postsecondary institutions.

11 (c) Research in California has demonstrated that relatively few
12 students who enter remediation ultimately attain a postsecondary
13 degree, credential, or transfer to a four-year institution, and that
14 students of color are disproportionately affected.

15 (d) Drawing on national initiatives aimed at increasing student
16 completion of college-level English and mathematics courses,
17 efforts in California have demonstrated the success of innovative
18 ways to deliver English and mathematics remediation.

19 (e) In those pilot efforts, students' odds of completing
20 college-level English courses more than double, and their odds of
21 completing college-level mathematics courses are more than four
22 times higher in comparison to students in traditional remediation.
23 However, at most community college campuses, these new
24 approaches are offered on a small scale and are not available to
25 most students.

26 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
27 to provide more opportunities for campuses of the California
28 Community Colleges to participate in basic skills innovation
29 strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness in improving
30 student success and increasing the number of underprepared
31 students who complete college-level English and mathematics
32 courses.